BUSINESS / B8
**Pfizer-Unilab** patent war over Lipitor rages on

ACROSS / A18
**More murders** feared as 2 candidates slain

LIFESTYLE / D1
**Rajo Laurel** 'cobweb' dress sparks 'copy' raps

NEWS / A2
**Campaign** funds drying up for Erap

SPORTS / A30
**RP Patriots** just a win away from ABL title

# Tiger breaks silence on sex scandal Friday

LOS ANGELES—TIGER WOODS WILL break his silence on Friday, when he is expected to address his plans for the future in the wake of a sex scandal that drove the golf superstar into seclusion.

Woods' agent on Wednesday said the 34-year-old golfer would speak at 11 a.m. on Friday (around midnight in Manila) at the TPC Sawgrass headquarters of the US PGA Tour in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

Woods will make a statement to a select group of media, with one televi-

TIGER/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY
# INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, February 19, 2010 ★★ Vol. 25 / No. 73

## Now Comelec seeks celebs for info drive

By Kristine L. Alave

IF YOU CAN'T BEAT them, get them.

After debating on whether celebrities who campaign for politicians should

NOW/ A21

# Power crisis perils polls

PARALEJO: Chased her still sitting as Pampanga governor

PINEDA: Proclaimed governor has filed a motion for execution.

LAPID: Ex-future gov can't claim victory as he's not a party to case.

ONLY IN RP

## Surprise! Lapid real winner in Pampanga

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—And the winner is—Mark Lapid!

Too bad Lapid is not allowed to claim the post of governor of Pampanga although he won the biggest number of votes in the recount of the ballots cast in the 2007 gubernatorial contest.

Lawyers said Lapid, the ex-electorate governor, was not a party to the recount case, whose result was announced by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) Feb. 11, and could not invoke victory.

Only the losers—Gov. Eddie Panlilio and former Board Member Lilia Pineda—can.

The recount conducted by the Comelec second division showed that Pineda received 190,720 votes, Panlilio 188,718 and Lapid, 210,875 votes.

In the 2007 race, Lapid had placed third among six candidates.

Lapid, a movie actor and son of Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, is now head of the Philippine Tourism Authority.

Lawyer Jessie Lambino, Comelec provincial supervisor, said only the votes cast for Panlilio and Pineda were officially revised.

"Mr. Lapid was not a party to the case so his votes had not been revised," Lambino told the Inquirer.

He said that Lapid did not file a petition for a recount within 10 days after the proclamation of the winner according to the election rules.

The former governor had conceded to Panlilio, a Catholic

SURPRISE/ A21

CHILDREN OF LESSER GOD Fresh from the Ash Wednesday ritual, a nun in Pampanga makes known her displeasure at the Comelec ruling declaring Lilia Pineda, wife of alleged "jueteng" king Bong Pineda, winner of the 2007 gubernatorial race. Supporters of Gov. Ed Panlilio pelted with cornstalks a streamer bearing the photos of Pineda, President Arroyo and Comelec Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer.

## Brownouts hit South; red alert situation

By Julie Alipala, Amy R. Remo and Philip C. Tubeza

MINDANAO IS SUFFERING from a serious power shortage as a result of a dry spell, raising fears that the shortfall could imperil the conduct of automated elections on the island.

The island accounts for 12 million or about a fourth of the country's 50 million registered voters.

Since Wednesday, National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) has placed Mindanao under red alert because the power situation on the island continued to worsen. A red alert status means that the grid has no reserves.

The Mindanao grid recorded a power supply deficit of 218 megawatts (MW) two days ago, prompting authorities to implement two-hour rotating brownouts.

As of yesterday, the Visayas grid recorded a shortfall of 81 MW, while the Luzon grid enjoyed a reserve of 532 MW.

On the sidelines of a power stakeholders' meeting in Zamboanga City Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said the power shortage was so serious that Mindanao's rotating brownouts could be increased to four hours a day.

About 52 percent of Mindanao's power supply comes from hydroelectric plants [whose turbines are run by water], making the country's second largest island particularly vulnerable

POWER/ A21

## Gibo impresses MBC but GMA ties hurting him

By Abigail L. Ho and Jocelyn R. Uy

FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro yesterday outlined an impressive program to reinvigorate the economy and raise incomes, but businessmen said his ties to President Macapagal-Arroyo could cost him the presidency in the May election.

Speaking before the Makati Business Club (MBC), Teodoro pledged to work if elected for an 8 percent growth in gross domestic product annually and boost per capita income to $3,200 by 2016 from the current $1,900.

Teodoro also vowed to make the Philippines more business-friendly, simplify tax policies and administra-

tion, as well as raise consumption taxes and cut personal and corporate income taxes to bring in more investments and address fiscal woes.

"He was very specific, more specific than the others. He was articulate, as usual. We were also satisfied with the way he answered the questions," said Alberto Lim, MBC executive director.

"Speaking after two other presidentiables, he had to step up. He rose to the challenge," Lim added.

Liberal Party standard-bearer Sen. Benigno Aquino III and Nacionalista Party presidential candidate Sen. Manuel Villar had earlier addressed the MBC.

GIBO/ A21

## Isabela farms worst-hit of 14 provinces

By Riza T. Olchondra

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE DECEMber last year, a dark cloud lurked over the corn fields of Isidro Acosta Jr. in Barangay Magsaysay, Sagudlan, Isabela.

"It would have been the first rain shower, but sadly, no rain fell," Acosta said.

His four-hectare farm would have yielded 20 tons of corn by now. Alas, it has become a government statistic on crop damage in Isabela, the worst-hit by the dry spell among 14 provinces nationwide.

The drought—one of the signs of an erratic weather disturbance called El Niño—has inflicted more than P2.84 billion in total damage to palay, corn and high-value crops, the Department of Agriculture's Central Action Center (Disac) reported on Tuesday.

The figure was more than double last week's estimate of P1.4 billion, according to Marilou Bernardo, Disac chief.

Currently reeling from El Niño are Isabela, Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya, Quir-

ISABELA/ A21

## 3 presidential bets seeking Magdalo nod

By Nikko Dizon

THEY MAY BE "PUTSCHISTS" OR "insurrectos" in the eyes of the military but this doesn't seem to worry three presidential candidates. In fact, the three aspirants are courting their support in the May elections.

An officer of the Magdalo group of soldiers told the Inquirer the other day that the group may decide by next week which presidential candidate to support. One of the group's leaders is detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

The Magdalo officer said discussions were going on with the camps of Senators Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and Manuel Villar. Environmentalist Nicanor Perlas separately said he was

3 PRESIDENTIAL/ A21

## *Exec in constant pain 'Happiest Pinoy'*

By Mike Navales

IF FILIPINOS HAVE A GENERALLY happy disposition, then what sets Winston Maxino apart from the 90 million others weathering a variety of problems every day?

"I think it's my positive outlook in life, my conscious and determined choice to be happy," Maxino, 47, told the Inquirer yesterday.

"I'm not saying my problems are more difficult than others ... I don't want to compare. I guess it's not the gravity of the problems I am facing, but how I accept the problem and turn it into something positive," he said.

A father of three, big-boned and standing nearly six feet tall, Maxino gives no hint of the constant pain brought by a rare genetic disorder.

SMILE THOUGH YOUR BACK IS BREAKING Winner Winston Maxino accepts the award, a P300,000 cash and trophy made of narra on Wednesday night in Makati City with his wife and three daughters of course happy to be by his side. ANGELA LAWSON

EXEC/ A20

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

| | |
|---|---|
| 6/49 | 8 21 / 26 16 / 22 28 |
| SUERTRES | 4 2 0 / 0 5 4 / 9 4 4 |
| 6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN | 6 7 10 14 19 27 — P13,850,067.60 |
| SUPER LOTTO 6/49 | 4 11 12 14 20 26 — P30,709,302.40 |

EL NIÑO OF CONTRIBUTIONS

# Campaign funds drying up for Erap


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By Norman Bordadora

GAPAN, NUEVA ECIJA—AN EL Niño of sorts (financial drought) has visited the camp of deposed President Joseph Estrada, standard-bearer of Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino.

Campaign funds are more difficult to come by this time than in 1998 when he won the presidency with the biggest lead, Estrada told reporters yesterday.

Estrada said on his sortie here that his second run for the presidency was experiencing some financial difficulties.

"It's a little different from then now. As you know, our economy's bad," Estrada said when asked to compare campaigns. Estrada is in his first run for the presidency with reelectionist ex-his campaign czars.

**Small amounts**

There have been donors but "only in small amounts (pa-konti-konti lang)," said Estrada, who was ousted by people power in January 2001 while the Senate impeachment court was trying him on various charges, including keeping a bank account that purportedly contained billions of pesos.

"Even the businessmen are finding it difficult to help," said the man who was convicted of plunder in 2007, but was pardoned by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

**Surveys**

Asked whether it could also be the result of the election surveys consistently placing him in third place, Estrada said: "That could also be."

The former President was reacting to a Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) report showing that the frequency of his TV advertisements in the two major networks was the lowest among those who had television ad spots.

PCIJ reported that Estrada's TV ads were aired for a combined total of 1481.5 minutes in ABS-CBN and GMA from Nov. 1, 2009 to Jan. 31, 2010. The election campaign for national positions began on Feb. 9.

Even brother Eddie Villanueva's air time of 186.25 in the two networks exceeded that of Estrada.

Estrada has been trailing Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III of the Liberal Party and Sen. Manuel Villar of the Nacionalista Party in the surveys by Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia Inc.

**Unpredictable**

He, however, called the survey results "still unpredictable."

"In the exact, exact (Vice President) Kabayan Noli (de Castro) No. 17 and other Koalisyon entered the fray, he (Noynoy) rated 4th percent. Now I think he's just at 37," Estrada said.

He said the people were still undecided.

Survey results conducted two weeks to a month before Election Day would be more reflective of the people's choice, according to Estrada.

Still, he indicated that there was no chance he would back out in favor of any candidates, either Villar or Aquino.

"I just go by with hard work. I try to reach as many people as possible," he said.

Estrada said that he didn't have the resources to rival the top spenders' advertising spots on television. His media ad placements were mostly on radio.

"TV ads are expensive. They are worth millions daily I can't afford them," he said.

Asked whether he was disheartened by the lack of fund support, Estrada said: "Not at all. The masses know. Even if they are given money, they will not vote for (their) candidates."

**Recouping expenses**

Estrada said those who spend quite an amount during the campaign would recoup it all once they get into office.

His son, vice-mayoralty bet Jinggoy Estrada, said funds were not yet pouring in because his father's rating had yet to go better.

"When the survey rating improves, I think many would donate," the senator-said reporters.

Jinggoy hopes that his father's survey ratings would improve in the first week of March.

# Namfrel to keep counting even without Comelec nod

THE NATIONAL CITIZENS' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) is determined to keep its promise to Philippine voters, however by going ahead with its own count of the votes to be cast in May, even without accreditation from the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Namfrel national chair Jose Cuisia Jr. said the group also wished to be involved in the random manual audit of election returns, although it could not do so unless the Comelec changed its mind and recognized it as a poll partner.

Namfrel is in dead position for completion of the manual audit before the winners are proclaimed and set aside, as the Comelec plans, Cuisia said.

He said Namfrel yesterday filed a motion for reconsideration of the Comelec ruling denying it accreditation as the poll agency's citizens' arm.

Even if their pleading were denied, Cuisia said the group would maintain an active presence in the first unlimited elections in the country.

Earlier, the Comelec denied Namfrel's petition for accreditation, citing its "partisan bent-ings," and picked instead the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) as its citizens' arm.

That is the first time Namfrel—which was organized in October 1983—is not recognized as a poll partner of the Comelec. It also will not get an official copy of the election returns.

### Enhance credibility

"All we can say is the presence of Namfrel will enhance the credibility of the election results," Cuisia said in a press conference.

"Our contribution to the conduct of free, fair and credible elections in the Philippines, as well as many parts of the world, have earned us respect from past administrations," he added.

He said that if Namfrel again failed to receive Comelec accreditation, it would still conduct a parallel count using copies of election returns from friends and contacts in political parties and other groups.

### Useful

A parallel count would be useful in verifying the election results, Cuisia said.

Damaso Magbual, Namfrel spokesperson, said the group was aiming for a 100-percent parallel count—possible now because with automated polling legibility would not be a problem, unlike in the past with manual elections.

Cuisia said that Namfrel, along with its partner Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines-National Secretariat for Social Action Justice and Peace, had begun preparing its volunteers to properly monitor the elections. It has approximately 200,000 members nationwide. Leila B. Salaverria

CUISIA

**Walking TVs seen again, lining up at MRT Ayala Station !**

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# Thousands beat deadline for vets' US funds; P7B paid out

THE US DEPARTment of Veterans Affairs (US DVA) had approved the applications of 12,846 eligible Filipino World War II veterans as of the deadline for the filing of applications for one-time lump sum payments ended on Feb. 16.

The US Embassy in Manila said on Wednesday night that a total of about P7.1 billion had been paid to qualified veterans or their widows under the Filipino veterans equity compensation provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that US President Barack Obama signed early last year.

For one week before the deadline, the US DVA held 22 outreach events in partnership with the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) around the Philippines to encourage veterans to file the claims.

## Deadline

US DVA's Manila Director Jon Shelly and his staff were also interviewed on TV and radio many times to explain the benefits and other provisions, and to remind veterans of the application deadline.

The US DVA office remained open on Feb. 15, when other embassy offices were closed for the George Washington's birthday Holiday. US DVA teams were also stationed at PVAO to accept claims.

"Thanks to the Philippine news media and our partners at the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office, we were able to get the word out about the benefit to veterans living all over the Philippines and in the United States," Shelly said.

"We had thousands of applications on the final two days at our office and at PVAO. So, we really did get the word out," he added.

About half of the nearly P7.2 billion in one-time benefits paid out so far has gone to Filipino WW II veterans with American citizenship. The other half went to Filipino veterans who are not US citizens.

## Adjudication

To date, of some 40,000 applications received, around 7,000 are duplicate applications, and 14,500 cases remain pending. Those cases will be adjudicated without delay, so that qualified veterans will get their benefits as quickly as possible.

The US DVA Manila staff includes 232 Filipino employees, working hard every day to serve these honored veterans, Shelly said.

Anyone who has already applied for this one-time benefit will receive an acknowledgement receipt from the US DVA. There is no need to obtain additional affidavits or other information unless requested by the US DVA.

"We continue to pay another 200 million monthly to provide and continuing benefits to Filipino veterans and their family members," Shelly said. Qin Hui O. Rabena

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ELECTIONS CIRCUS

# Spare schools, poll bets told

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE CIRCUS IS BACK IN TOWN but keep it out of the schools, please.

In an order dated Feb. 11, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus banned the posting of campaign materials in school premises, including the walls and fences around them.

The directive also prohibits meetings in schools during school hours.

Lapus said the ban took effect when the election period officially started on Feb. 9 and would last until the results of the national and local elections were known.

"I appeal to all politicians to spare the schools from any political propaganda and pressure," Lapus said in a statement.

He added that the order aimed to protect schools from "the poisonous world of politics."

## Parents complain

Even before the start of the campaign period, the Department of Education (DepEd) has been getting complaints from principals, parents and the media about tarpaulins and posters that mar school premises, Lapus said.

"These guidelines must be observed as an act to safeguard the integrity of this political exercise," he said.

Under the order, campaign materials (posters, tarpaulins, billboards and the like) cannot be posted or hung within school premises, including the grounds in front of the schools and the areas around them, like "walls, fences, sidewalk."

School heads were ordered to immediately remove illegally posted campaign materials within school premises.

## Schools are non-partisan

And "to preserve the non-partisan nature of DepEd," Lapus said school personnel should not be involved in distributing campaign materials, particularly within school premises.

Distribution of campaign materials by representatives of political parties or candidates must be made outside the school premises, he added.

Lapus said election activities using school premises, such as political rallies and public meetings, "must not be scheduled during school days while classes are going on."

Organizers of any election activity must first secure a permit from proper authorities and follow cleanliness on the premises of schools, he said.

Similarly, event organizers shall ensure the cleanliness of the school grounds after the activity, he added.

## No disruptions of classes

Lapus also said election-related preparatory meetings and seminars for teachers and other personnel involved in the conduct of the elections shall be "so scheduled to avoid any disruption to classes and held in an appropriate venue within the school."

"The only election materials to be allowed to be posted or distributed within the school premises are those specifically authorized under election laws and only for the period prescribed," Lapus said.

The Commission on Elections earlier came out with Resolution No. 8758 banning "the posting of campaign materials in public places outside of the designated common poster areas such as streets, bridges, public structures or buildings, trees, electric posts or stores, schools, churches, main thoroughfares and the like."

# Nene lauds Comelec for firing Bedol

SENATE MINORITY LEADER Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday commended Commissioner on Elections (Comelec) chair Jose Melo for dismissing Zambo election official Limuel Bedol from the poll body as he expressed hope that greater rigor of his ken, who lost in the 2007 senatorial race, would "tone up the light of day."

The Comelec had ousted Bedol, the controversial election supervisor in Maguindanao, three years after the 2007 elections where all administration senatorial candidates swept the top 12 spots in the province.

Pimentel acknowledged though that even if Bedol had been fired by the Comelec, he had "completely disappeared."

"No—not [at] him[,]," he told reporters, as he agreed that Bedol would not be able to face charges against him.

Bedol had been found guilty by the Comelec en banc of "malfeasance in office" and perpetual ban with a six-month prison term at the Manila City Jail. (Christine D. Avendaño)

# Bro. Mike backs Toots Ople; Manny, Loren must wait

By Philip C. Tubeza

IGLESIA NI CRISTO (INC) SPOKESMAN Bro. Mike Velarde finally endorses Ate Toots Ople for senator.

Velarde said Monday that he would support the Villar-Legarda ticket, the influential TV evangelist categorically said he would vote for one candidate in May 2010. No-candidate Party (NP) senatorial candidate Susan "Toots" Ople.

Speaking before hundreds of supporters in the Hong Kong Central Interior, Velarde said he was the one who urged Ople to run for the Senate, adding that he knew her father, the late Sen. Blas F. Ople.

"I will let her talk later because I will vote for her. I told her to run," Velarde told his flock, who did not disperse despite the intermittent rain.

Ople was the lone senatorial candidate who attended the prayer rally together with NP presidential standard bearer Sen. Manny Villar and vice-presidential candidate Sen. Loren Legarda.

Velarde made a strong pitch for Bishop Ople's kin when he said was pro-life and against all forms of artificial contraception. He also talked about his long friendships with Villar and Legarda.

Ople, a former labor undersecretary and overseer of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), said she was grateful to Velarde for his encouraging words.

"I admire him because I want to be sure he has been consistent in leading after the interests of the left-behinds, including thousands of OFWs who have found spiritual strength through El Shaddai," she said.

Ople is the youngest daughter of the late senator, who was labor secretary during the Marcos years and foreign affairs secretary during the Aquino administration before he died in 2003.

She explained to curious Filipinos unanimously hostile to Hong Kong when campaigned the NP agenda for OFWs. At OFW health care program for returning OFWs who became ill while working abroad, a country-specific and experience-based pre-departure orientation program that would include the mandatory enrollment, a crackdown on usurious lending companies, and the restructuring of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration governing board to include an additional representative to be nominated by Filipino community worldwide.

Ople said she would also bat for a higher budget for the Foreign Affairs and Labor and Employment Departments to ensure quicker response to the problems of OFWs.

The labor advocate could also run against labor-only contracting and vowed that her very first bill in the Senate would prohibit abusive measures that lead to the exploitation of local workers.

On the other hand, Legarda said Velarde's support for her and Villar was "an obvious day" after Sunday's prayer rally.

"The colors spoke louder than words," Legarda said, noting that El Shaddai members wore orange and white, the colors of the Villar-Legarda ticket.

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## Corrections

IN THE FEB. 17 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Time for EMA to speak up on Morong 43"—misstated the surname of the daughter and granddaughter of the late labor leader Crispin Beltran. Their names are Hedda and Jane Beltran—not Balbastro. The same mistake also appeared in an earlier story.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, the Metro Inquirer story on Page A20—"Ethel resigned on murder rap"—misread the name of the driver of road rage suspect Jason Ivler. The lawyer is Alexis Medina—not Arthur Mikell Bingham.

# Dick Gordon warned: Don't use Red Cross

By Ed Yap

THE INTERNATIONAL Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has cautioned presidential candidate Richard Gordon, a senator and chair of the local Red Cross, over its compromise-be-tempted-nature of the organization as it prepares to respond to the possible explosion of election-related violence in the run-up to national polls.

Jean Daniel Tauxe, head of the ICRC delegation in the Philippines, said as a recent media briefing at the Corinthian Plaza Galleria in Mandaluyong City that "a line must be drawn" between Gordon's identity as chair of the Philippine National Red Cross and as a politician seeking the presidency.

Tauxe said the ICRC already had a meeting with the senator to discuss the matter. "I think it went very well. He is well aware that the Red Cross stands for impartiality, neutrality and independence," he said.

Tauxe said the Geneva-based ICRC has no monopoly on such ties. Richard Gordon's television ad showing him in a Red Cross jacket while helping victims of past typhoons.

He said Gordon's "Silent Night" ad campaign was also not objectionable on its own, but that he must "take care of his own line."

The ICRC official said he understood that Gordon's ad only meant to emphasize his achievements as the PNRC chair, and not necessarily to use Red Cross to further his political ambitions.

"He is the chair of the local Red Cross, and at the same time senator of the Republic who is running for president," Tauxe said.

Meanwhile, Red Cross is drawing up a list of circumstances "hot spots" or areas where outbreaks of election-related violence are feared.

Red Cross officials said "hot responders" as well as key emergency supplies, including blood, will be deployed in those areas, particularly in Mindanao, where 37 people were killed in November in the country's second election-related violence in the 1986 a report by AFP

**UN COMMANDER**

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon receives Maj. Gen. Natalio Ecarma III of the Philippine Marines during the Filipino general's call at the UN headquarters in New York City on Wednesday. Ecarma is the incoming commander of the 1,340-strong UN peacekeeping force in the Golan Heights, a contested Syrian territory controlled by Israel. Ecarma takes over from Austria's Maj. Gen. Wolfgang Jilg on March 1. (UN PHOTO/EVAN SCHNEIDER)

# Nene open to reconciliation with GMA

By Christine O. Avendaño

SENATE MINORITY LEADER Aquilino Pimentel Jr yesterday said that while he was open to the idea of being friends with President Macapagal-Arroyo, this would not stop him from speaking out against her or her administration.

At the weekly Kapihan on Senate, Pimentel was asked whether he would consider reconciliation with Ms Arroyo in the wake of a statement of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita that she wished to reconcile with her critics.

Pimentel—who had a falling out with Ms Arroyo early on in her administration when she chose Teofisto Guingona over him as her vice president—expressed skepticism with the word "reconciliation."

He said he did not want to see the word become a removal that everything would be fine between him and the President and that he would be silent on issues affecting the country.

"What we are discussing here are differences of views and opinions on public matters that are part of the democratic debate," Pimentel said.

He pointed out that he was with the opposition and would continue to be so "as far as this administration is concerned."

But Pimentel said he had nothing against friendship with Ms Arroyo. "We can be friends, why not? I mean, we don't have to be personal enemies."

He said this was also his "message to Manong Johnny," of Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile: "We can be political enemies and not necessarily personal enemies."

The two men agreed to the Senate on the controversial C.5 road extension project that was said to have benefited the real estate empire of Sen. Manuel Villar, the standard bearer of the Nacionalista Party.

Enrile prepared and defended a report of the Senate committee of the whole examining Villar for unethical conduct, while Pimentel and the other minority senators defended the presidential candidate.


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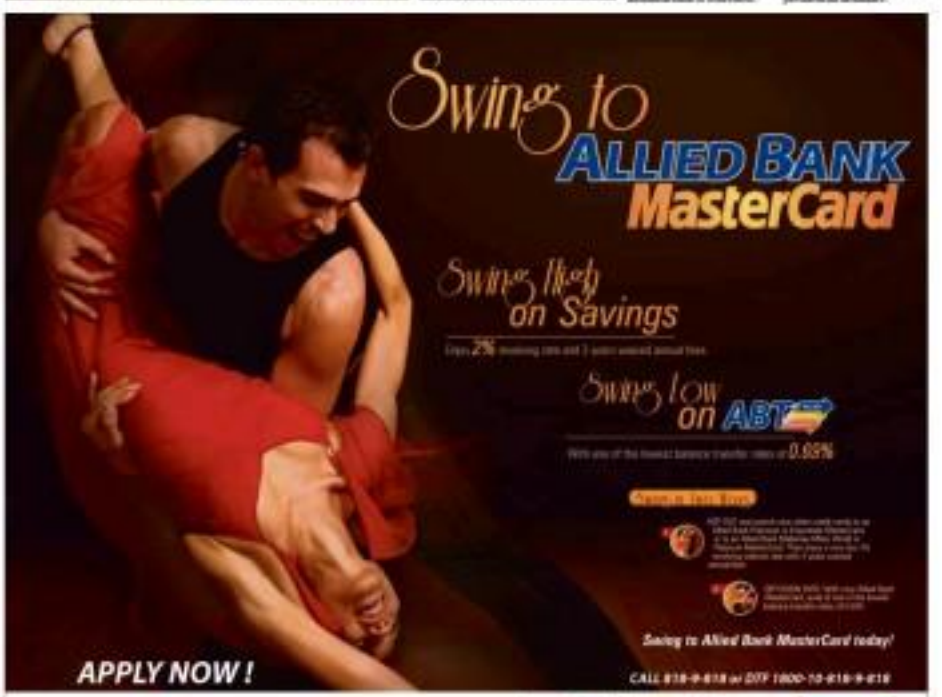

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# Poll bets told: Bare RH stand

By Nikko Dizon

ADVOCATES OF REPRODUCTIVE health rights yesterday called on the presidential candidates to bare their agenda on reproductive health and take a clear stand on the issue.

They also called on the incoming 15th Congress to pass the reproductive health (RH) bill into law "immediately."

"Presidential candidates are being more careful in trying to answer the questions...They should make a clear stand on reproductive health now," said Ramon San Pascual, executive director of the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation (PLCPD).

The PLCPD, along with ReCon-delights Inc. and the Forum for Family Planning and Development Inc., held a joint press conference to air their demands and enjoin voters to pick candidates "who support the passage of the RH bill into law."

"It has been over eight years since the first RH bill was filed in Congress. The failure to pass the RH bill has been detrimental to the health and lives of Filipinos, especially women and children," the groups said in a joint statement.

## RH platform

Lawyer Clara Rita Padilla, ReCon-delights Inc. executive director, said that while the group had not endorsed a presidential candidate, reproductive health advocates "are looking for candidates with a platform on reproductive health...where are the programs of the candidates on RH?"

"The candidates should be able to answer reproductive health issues," she said.

San Pascual said that of the nine presidential candidates, only Sen. Benigno Aquino III and Gov. Manny Villar had taken consistent, albeit different, stands on the RH issue.

San Pascual said that Aquino had been "consistent and clear" that presidents should be responsible for planning their families, government should be able to help them.

Villar, on the other hand, had said that reproductive health was a distinct issue.

## Open-mind

"What we hope to have, at least, is someone who is not necessarily pro-life but someone who has an open-mind and would allow Congress to do its work," said San Pascual.

"This is policy-making. If the candidate would allow Congress to debate and then later vote and (he would) respect the process of lawmaking, then we will go for (that) president," San Pascual said.

He also criticized President Macapagal-Arroyo's purported watchdog in the 15th Congress which if come to the reproductive health bill.

According to San Pascual, Speaker Prospero Nograles has announced that the HR bill would be passed, unlike President Arroyo called him up.

He said the call from Malacañang to the House leader came in October 2009.

"We know what encouraged the whole process! A powerful bishop called Malacañang. The message was transmitted to Congress," San Pascual said.

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# Mindanao dialogues kick off tomorrow

THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) will host out the stakeholders in the peace process with "Reflective" which and launch "Tinig Mindanao" tomorrow with a visit to Jolo, Sulu.

It will be the first of a series of such Reflective Dialogues to consult the people in Mindanao and in other areas on the peace negotiations between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

OPAPP is also set to bring "Dialogue Mindanao" to Zamboanga on Feb. 22, Davao on Feb. 23; Cotabato on Feb. 26; Iligan/and on Feb. 27; Cagayan Region on March 1; Lanao on March 4 and Cagayan de Oro on March 6.

Reflective Dialogues are also scheduled in Bacolod on Feb. 26; Palawan on March 3; Manila on March 6 and Baguio on March 7.

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Secretary Annabelle Abaya said in a press statement that with "Dialogue Mindanao," the government would be able to consult the people first before bringing any decision or proposal to the negotiating table with the MILF.

"During Reflective Dialogues, the state of the people will be heard and considered. The government wants to avoid the pitfall of the usual representation of question-and-answer programs with various sectors," Abaya said.

Abaya emphasized that through these Reflective Dialogues, people will be given firsthand information on what's happening or what will happen in the negotiations between the Philippine state and the government.

"This way, the people will know that they are consulted first before the government renders any decision," she said.

The Reflective Dialogues will gather some 300 participants, representing various groups of each region: the local government units, the academe, NGOs, the religious and business sectors, fisherfolk and farmers, a diverse general public including women and the youth, Christians, Lumads, Muslims.

The Reflective Dialogues consist of inputs from resource persons who will be discussing issues on the peace table, followed by small group discussions.

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# For claiming he's still single, married Japanese is deported

FOR LYING ABOUT HIS MARital status in his visa application, a Japanese man lost his immigrant's visa and has been deported.

The Bureau of Immigration (BI) deported Toshiki Sato, 58, after his visa was revoked following the complaint of his estranged wife, who accused her husband of falsifying his marital status when he applied for a Philippine visa.

"This should serve as a warning to cohort visa applicants. They should always be truthful in their visa applications or face arrest and deportation," Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan said in a press statement.

The complainant, Yoshiko Ida, said her husband declared that he was single in his application for a special non-immigrant's visa when, in fact, he was legally married to her.

Ida also described Sato as an undesirable alien and accused him of committing cultural adultery for openly cohabiting with a Filipina in Bohol. She added that her husband also committed bigamy for marrying his mistress in a civil wedding even if their marriage is not recorded.

Ida also alleged that Sato had depended on her for financial support since he arrived in the country and that she also shouldered the expenses for the processing of his permanent visa.

He was arrested last year in Tagbilaran, Bohol, on the strength of a deportation warrant issued by Libanan. He was also placed on the immigration's blacklist.

Libanan said that a foreigner stay in the country "is a matter of privilege, that their presence here should not be detrimental to public welfare and that they should have the capacity to support their stay in the country.

"Respondent Sato did not live up to this standard and it is but proper that his quota immigrant visa be cancelled and he be ordered to leave the country," he said.

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## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, February 19, 2010
Friday after 6th Ash Wednesday

1st Reading: Is 58:1-9a
Gospel: Mk 6:14-15

The disciples of John came to Jesus with the question, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast so many occasions, but our your disciples do not?"

Jesus answered them, "How can you expect wedding guests to mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? Time will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, then they will fast."

Commentary:

"The followers of John the Baptist came to Jesus asking, 'Why is it that we and the Pharisees fast often but your disciples don't fast at all?'"

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# Edsa I not yours, Noynoy, LP told

By Michael Lim Ubac

NO ONE—NOT EVEN THE SOLIMO FAMILY and the Liberal Party (LP)—holds a franchise to the historical event that was the Edsa People Power revolution, according to party list Rep. Sarah Domingo.

"Edsa I is not yours," Domingo, who is running for the Senate under the Nacionalista Party (NP), told the rival LP as he assured it would not take ownership of the revolt of the masses in February, 1986.

Domingo said it appears as a campaign tactic in Aklan that the root of people power, the late President Corazon Aquino, was merely a "byproduct" of that people's movement.

"Edsa I is a specific event that was not intervened or led by one particular person. No one has a franchise on Edsa I," he said.

### Unresolved issues

Asked if the ideals of Edsa were still relevance 24 years after it deposed a dictator and brought back democracy, Domingo replied that many issues remained unresolved after the bloodless revolt.

"Edsa I is not dead nor because it has to be revived, but because the expectations it raised have not been fully realized. That is why the call for change continues, especially under the worsening conditions presided over by the incumbent," he said.

He warned the LP against "disavowing" the Edsa I celebration by using the event to further the party's political interests, drawing parallel to "aspects that the camp of LP presidential candidate Benigno Aquino III, the son of Cory, would use the event to further his political ambition."

Other NP candidates echoed Ocampo amid preparations to commemorate marking on Feb. 22, the 24th anniversary of the peaceful revolt that brought down the Marcos dictatorship and installed Corazon Aquino as President.

Sen. Manuel Villar, NP standard bearer, said that the country did not need another Edsa revolt since people were looking forward for a one change to take root in the country after the May 10 elections.

He said that another Edsa revolt would cause the country more troubles. "The May election is coming—about 79 days are left until the change being sought will be realized," he said.

Villar's running mate Loren Legarda raised the same position. "Different times call for different circumstances. If Edsa I was relevant 23 years ago, the fight today is against poverty and joblessness," she said.

The NP candidates were reacting to the launch of the "Kamal Starts" discussions aired over ABC starting this week as a prelude to Edsa I anniversary.

### Vicious cycle

Guests invited to the discussions agreed on the consensus that the country was "in a vicious cycle" of confusion, disappointment, divisiveness and rejection that had held the country down in the years following the Edsa I revolt.

"We are in a vicious cycle. We unite to get rid of a government we no longer support. Then weakness comes in, allegations of corruption crop up, resulting to rejection of government—not only by the people but even its allies," noted Ateneo Law School dean Cesar Villanueva, who co-hosted the show with TV host Toni Gonzaga.

Discussions covered the gains and lessons learned from the Edsa I revolt and the so-called Edsa II uprising.

## Concert to mark Asean Law 30th year

A CLASSICAL music concert featuring internationally acclaimed pianists Susana del Rosario-Nakanishi and Cornelio de Leon Hispala will mark the 30th anniversary of the Asean Law Association (ALA) of the Philippines today at the Ayala Museum in Makati City.

It is hosted by the Ayala Foundation.

The two-piano concert's repertoire includes classical musical pieces by celebrated composers like Frederic Chopin, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Alexander Borodin and Franz Liszt. Joining the two musical duo is renowned soprano Rachelle Arevalo and the UP Singing Ambassadors. Musical direction is provided by Court of Appeals Justice Mag-dangal de Leon.

The opening of the concert coincides with the ALA Governing Council Meeting on Feb. 18 to 20, which brings together legal luminaries from here and abroad.


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# NP: Mar not the father of cheaper meds law

By Michael Lim Ubac

ILOILO CITY—TRAINING ITS GUNS on Liberal Party (LP) vice presidential candidate Mar Roxas, the Nacionalista Party (NP) yesterday said the senator was not the real father of the Cheaper Medicines Act.

In a press conference at Hotel del Rio here, Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico and 4th District Rep. Niñoy Mirasol also alluded to a P1-billion kitty fund that was supposedly put up by pharmaceutical companies to fight the passage of the law.

Suplico arose and filed the House version of the bill when he was a representative in the 13th Congress. Mirasol refiled it in the 14th Congress.

After much wrangling in both chambers, the measure became Republic Act No. 9502, or the Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008.

The act provides for a 50 percent reduction in the maximum retail price (MRP) of 32 essential medicines.

Suplico and Mirasol said they decided to review the allegations surrounding the crafting of the measure after seeing Roxas' campaign ads promoting him as the father of the law.

"I think it is somewhere [upon us] ... to tell the people what is true," Mirasol said.

"I think we have to inform the public that he is not the genuine author of the law, in fact he was the [co-author] of the [House] version—he set it aside. He didn't want any [opposition to be part of the law]," Mirasol said.

NP vice presidential candidate Jejomar Jejomin, Roxas' main rival who was at the press conference, chimed in, saying that Biron was the real author of the cheaper medicines law.

She said Roxas "took the [cheaper medicines] title, removed its contents and made it into a pro-multinational and anti-poor [measure]."

# Mike Arroyo hurt in accident

JOSE MIGUEL ARROYO, HUSBAND Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, was hurt after his figured in a vehicular accident while en route to the Black Wash Golf and Country Club in Mendelssohn City Wednesday morning, his lawyer said last night.

"He had a bump on his head," his lawyer Ben Ibrahim, who learned of the accident yesterday, said by phone. "It's no big deal. There's nothing to be alarmed about."

"He was examined. All negative. He's OK now," he said.

# Farmers accuse Villar of land fraud

By Nancy Carvajal

A GROUP OF FARMERS HAS ACCUSED Nacionalista Party presidential candidate Sen. Manny Villar and his wife of fraud in the acquisition of a P71.5-billion loan from the Danglas firm, and of grabbing 991 hectares.

In a press conference yesterday, the farmers said their land was used by Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar to secure a loan for Optimum Development Bank (formerly Capitol Bank), which was owned by the couple, from the GSIS.

"We are the rightful owners of the land used by Optimum to secure the loan," said Nilo Bautista, the 20 landowners who attended the conference.

Bautista showed reporters documents to show they were the rightful owners of at least 715 hectares located in Barangay San Isidro, Santa Cruz del Monte, Pulupandan, Negros del Sur, the PSE after Optimum Bank failed to repay the loan.

Sherie Tecson, spokesperson of the group, said the farmers decided to speak up now "because Villar is running for president."

"This is our only chance to be heard. It must be now because we are scared nothing will happen with our fight if the farmers president," Tecson said.

She said they wanted their fight against Villar in 2008 when their complaint against him with the Ombudsman.

"It has been more than two years, nothing has come out of it," she said.

In a statement, Villar lawyer Nolen Feraren Calderon said:

"This renewed issue is another clear indication of the obsession of Senator Villar's opponents to link him to an anomaly, any anomaly.

"We reiterate that Capitol Bank's transaction with SSS were all aboveboard and legal. The properties transferred to SSS were all covered by titles existing on file with the Registry of Deeds," he said.

# GMA caved in on seniors bill, says Binay

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO WAS forced to sign the Expanded Senior Citizens Law due to mounting pressure and not out of the goodness of her heart, according to United Opposition (UNO) vice presidential candidate Jejomar Binay.

Mr. Binay was reacting positively to the elderly and the probability of daily pension from some senior citizens. "[She] would not look good for someone who is embarking on a race to perpetuate her legacy," Binay said in a press statement.

Binay added that the President probably also feared that she would be isolated politically, even from her own candidates, "for being insensitive and lacking compassion.

"Even before she signed the bill, we already sensed her apprehension. We know her loyalties lie with the interest of the elite who elevated her to power in 2001. She is too afraid to ruffle their feathers," he said. "If our senior citizens did not make noise, the Palace would have sat on the measure and left it to the next Congress."

Binay was referring to an earlier statement by a Malacañang official that Ms. Arroyo was too busy with her legacy laws to sign the poverty measures which would allow the country's 5.8 million senior citizens to fully enjoy the 20-percent discount granted to them by law by exempting them from the 12 per cent expanded value added tax (EVAT).

Senior citizens have complained they were getting only an 8-percent discount from their purchases and medicines due to the imposition of the 12 percent EVAT on goods and services.

# Occupational health course offered at UP

THE UP MANILA COLLEGE OF PUBLIC Health has announced the holding of the Postgraduate Course in Occupational Health and Safety on April 19-23 and 26-27, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the College of Public Health, ADS B Old Sc., Ermita, Manila.

The course satisfies the Department of Labor and Employment's training requirements for company physicians, nurses, dentists, and other health professionals.

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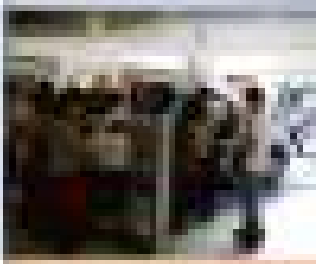

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# OPINION

## A dangerous idea

**EDITORIAL**

SENATE PRESIDENT JUAN PONCE ENRILE HAS A well-deserved reputation for legal acumen, but it is a reputation shadowed by a history of political ambition. His absurd and dangerous idea, first floated last September and then repeated the other day, that in case of a massive failure of elections later this year the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police can intervene and choose an acting head of government, is classic: it is, at one and the same time, patently unconstitutional and incredibly self-indulgent.

"Walang Presidente, walang Vice Presidente at walang Senate President, there is no one who will take over... Para hindi magkagulo, kailangang mag-take over ang military at pumili ng OIC [officer in charge] na emergency-ng Senate pansamantala," Enrile told ABS-CBN. His normal acumen is there enough even non-Filipino speakers can understand it: to prevent chaos, the military must take over and choose an OIC to govern the country temporarily.

He cited a new provision in the Constitution (new, that is, in our constitutional history) to argue his position. Article II, Section 3 explicitly describes the Armed Forces as the "protector of the people and the State."

Last September he included the Philippine National Police, as another of the state's "institutions of legitimate violence," to the caretaker role. "The Constitution is just a piece of document and if it is not enforced, nothing will happen," he told them. "Who will enforce the Constitution? It is the police and the military if there is no civilian authority that can enforce it, that can issue the commands."

This is all wrong, and runs directly counter to the spirit of the Constitution Enrile says he wants to see enforced. In the first place, his fixation with a military solution to a perennial political crisis reflects his own background as an eminent lawyer who served as Ferdinand Marcos' martial law administrator, a powerful defense minister who encouraged the formation of a corps of military rebels in the chapter of martial rule, an astute politician who masterminded a (failed) military coup against Marcos that was redeemed only by the first emergence of people power.

Secondly, Enrile is giving short shrift to the Constitution. The "protector of the people" provision was written into the post-Marcos Constitution precisely to prevent another military-backed dictatorship, not to provide the armed services with a back door through which they can enter the corridors of Malacañang. Indeed, the "protector of the people" provision comes only after the framers of the 1987 Constitution reiterated one of the fundamental principles of a genuine democracy: to wit, that civilian authority should at all times be supreme over the military. There is nothing in the Constitution, absolutely nothing, that empowers the AFP and the PNP to, as Enrile said last September, choose among themselves or from any institution "the one to run the country."

Thirdly, Enrile proceeds in one unjustifiable sphere where are, in worst, only difficulties. "Imagine if you have no election, you have no president, no vice president, no Senate. The 12 senators cannot function. In fact there are only 11, nine of them cannot vote. He is in judicial custody. There are only 11. They cannot function," he said last year. (The 12th senator, of course, is Magdalo ringleader Antonio Trillanes IV.) We agree: they cannot function—if they wait until after June 30 to elect a Senate president who can serve as acting president in case of a general failure of elections. But why wait till then? The 14th Congress still has one more session left, in May. Why pretend that the possibility of electing a new Senate president in May does not exist?

Lastly, Enrile himself holds the key to the crisis he says we should avoid at all costs. Last September he could have offered to give up the Senate presidency, which he says he did not seek and does not need. The other day he could have offered to return to the Senate in May with the avowed intention to exercise his leadership in that chamber—the leadership that is the subject of his "Gusto ko Happy ka" (I want you to be happy) re-election campaign ads—to persuade his colleagues to elect a new Senate president before chaos erupts. Why didn't he say so then? And why doesn't he do so now?

It can only be self-indulgence. And that doesn't make any of us happy.

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## Is NWRB giving Wawa Dam developer the runaround?

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

SUMMER AND EL NIÑO ARE UPON US AND water is growing scarce all over the archipelago, ironically only a few months after Metro Manila and most of Luzon drowned in floods spawned by two typhoons. Many areas and many businesses have not yet recovered from those floods but already another calamity, a drought, is upon us.

From north to south, farms are drying up and billions of pesos worth of crops are lost. Power banks in dam reservoirs are receding fast. In Mindanao, water levels at hydroelectric plants are near minimum and the island is experiencing a power crisis as the hydro plants cannot generate sufficient electricity due to insufficient water to turn the turbines. In Luzon, the largest dams are drying up, and the National Power Corporation feared (WSWS) it has reduced water allocations for irrigation. Water supply from Angat Dam to Metro Manila has been cut from 46 cubic meters per second to 41 cubic meters per second starting Jan. 16, with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) telling consumers to conserve water as supply will be reduced further. This month, water supply to Metro Manila was reduced further to 40 cubic meters per second (cms). This will be reduced to 38 cms in March, 36 cms in April, and 33 cms in May and June—when the rainy season is expected to begin.

Angat Dam's normal water level is 201 meters. The MWSS expects it to be as low as 176.50 meters by June 30. The MWSS, on the other hand, predicts that the water level at Angat would drop lower, to 168.50 meters, by June, lower even than the 171.15 meters recorded in 1998, when the Philippines suffered a severe drought, the lowest so far recorded.

Consumers in Metro Manila will experience a reduction in water pressure, with the zones serviced by Maynilad Water having less water than the zones serviced by Manila Water.

What many people cannot understand is why there are floods every rainy season and water shortages every summer and why concessionaires, is the NWRB punishing or is it simply not aware of the cause of the supplies?

"This would all have been avoided had the NWRB given San Lorenzo Ruiz Builders and Developers Group Inc. (SLRDI) its water permit even initially for only 900,000 cubic meters out of its 1,500,000-cubic-meter per day original water application permit, instead of giving SLRB the runaround for the last 16 years," says Oscar Hidaya, president and CEO of SLRB.

SLRB possesses the water rights to Wawa Dam (here we go again) in Montalban, Rizal, only a few kilometers above La Mesa Dam. SLRB wants to put a pipeline from Wawa to La Mesa at its own expense to augment Metro Manila's water supply. That would prevent the water shortage in Metro Manila every summer. At the same time, more water from Angat can be used to irrigate the farms in Bulacan and Pampanga.

Wawa used to be the only source of water for Novaliches until Angat Dam was built, after which Wawa was abandoned. Now the water from Angat is no longer sufficient and Wawa should be tapped again. For the last 16 years (that's correct, 16 years!) SLRB has been wasting its dam that, asking the NWRB to give it the permission to develop its water rights, for a dam (for piping from Wawa to La Mesa) and not the millions of gallons of water that goes over the dam daily and flows down the Marikina and Pasig Rivers to be lost in Manila Bay. But for the last 16 years, the NWRB played deaf and dumb and has not even replied to following-up letters on its applications.

I suspect the NWRB or somebody else high up in the government wants to give Wawa to somebody else. (In the two water concessionaires, Maynilad and Manila Water, have offered to tap Wawa). But under the law it cannot do that as SLRDI already possesses the water rights to it and such rights cannot be transferred to any body else. So the government is giving SLRB the runaround, hoping that it would get tired, lose interest and abandon its water rights.

## Best and worst of government

**COMMENTARY**

*Bonnie Murphy*

> The use of water cannons is illegal in such evictions. Water cannons on women!

EVERY DAY IN METRO MANILA WE HAVE numerous examples of the best and worst practices of government. In Navotas, young policemen beat up poor women old enough to be their grandmothers. The women wouldn't disperse from a barricade they had formed to protest their homes against actions of the Department of Public Works and Highways which they believed were illegal. Lawyers and other government officers agree with the women.

Meanwhile in Bataan, Manila Mayor Fred Lim and Barangay Chair Cristy Reguino have agreed on how to resettle families living in the most humane and effective way possible.

Gina Cadenas, 61, was one of the women beaten by police in Navotas along the 0-56 road that runs along Manila Bay. "She held his shield against my face," she said of the young policeman who clubbed her. "Then he held down and hit my legs and feet with his club." She showed me her bruised legs and the lesion on her arms. "I didn't think they would do that to us. We were just protecting our homes and our rights as human beings. I feel very sad about what happened. It hurts to think they would do that to old women like myself."

Several other women showed their wounds, including Angelita Villareal, Virginia Castillas, Daisy Adlawan and Emma Villareal. Five wanted to give their ages.

Fr. Robert Reyes had led a prayer service in the street at which the men and women of the barricade laughed and cried, hugged one another, listened to the Scripture, prayed and sang "Sana Kasama," which has become the anthem of the oppressed ever since it was sung in the giant rallies that supported Cory Aquino before and after the snap election of 1986.

The message was also water cannoned from

a distance of a few feet. The use of water cannons is illegal in such evictions. Water cannons on women!

Usually after big fires the government takes steps to keep the poor from returning to the land they occupied, because it believes it has better use for the land. The fire victims must look for land elsewhere. Mayor Lim, the barangay captain, the local people's organization, Kabalikat and architects from the Bataan School of Architecture have agreed on something more useful.

They too, will not allow people to return to the land that was burned, but only areas behind have been surveyed and subdivided into lots, and then they can return. The new settlement will have straight roads for ambulances and fire engine access. Access is the biggest problem in most slum fires. The second fire spread because fire trucks couldn't get near it.

Second, the mayor and others will ask the Bataan School of Architecture to survey and plan the settlement in consultation with the people.

Third, the resurveyed area will be the model for the other 6,000 families living in burning barangs in Baseco. Because the soil is very "risky" and liable to liquefaction in case of an earthquake, houses will be limited to one story. The people involved will avoid with neighborhood groups, including Muslim organizations and Fr. Ces Sabio and the Jo Hannibal fire powermen (some Ok!).

The fire area has been bulldozed, and now looks like an ancient battle field excavated after the ages. Individual men and women wander about on it, lost in their thoughts. The setting sun sends long shadows as if playing children across the wrinkled ground. The people are content as they line up for relief goods; they don't have to worry about relocation. That is, all the people except the parents of a little girl who died in the fire.

In Navotas the people live on land designated for the widening of R-10. They agree to move and they qualify in every way for the relocation authorized in the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992, if they receive their relocation allowances, they will move.

But DPWH says it needed the land from Ilog Authority and other agencies to provide resettlement. When they wouldn't do so, the DPWH claimed it had done all that was required and went ahead to another question able way to plan the eviction. Instead of a survey, it just sent P10,000 to families to move, an alternative not mentioned in the law.

There is a proper willingness now even among the most influential government agencies to ignore the housing and resettlement laws. The government can deal kindly or cruelly with the poor, but there are serious consequences in this life and the next.

Bonnie Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates. Its email address is upa@skyinfo.net.

# Class war

ANALYSIS

*Amando Doronila*

IN THE LAST WEEK OF JANUARY, SURVEYS PUT the undecided voters at between 2 percent (Social Weather Stations, 1 percent (Mindanao Studies) and 6 percent (Pulse Asia). There are 50,722,734 registered voters for the May elections. The Commission on Elections expects an 80 percent turnout, or 40.5 million.

Historically, Philippine national elections attract a relatively high participation rate of between 70 and 80 percent, comparable to that of stable and old western democracies, at a rate less than 60 percent. From this view, a high level of electoral discipline has been built into the electorate. The results of pluralist democracies that hold regular elections as endorsements of social and political systems.

The above figures are being used by the paper to focus on, and illustrate, the issue that the president of Malacañang Palace, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, depicted on which the leading presidential candidates (notably Senators Benigno Aquino II and Manuel Villar) would fight to win over the undecided in the next months.

Classified according to income classes, 18 percent of the 40.5 million voters, belong to ABC classes, (the rich and upper middle class, the intelligentsia), 71 percent to the D class (lower middle class and the poor), and 11 percent to Class E, the poorest. The two leading candidates, Aquino and reputedly Aquino and Villar, who were in a dead heat in the Pulse Asia survey with 27 percent of respondents voting for Aquino and 31 percent for Villar, has been determined by what socioeconomic classes they belong to, according to most opinionists. The vote percentage pattern separating them pinpoints the area where they would be fighting tooth and nail, for as many as the competition is of 11,000 votes, representing the number of votes involved in the 2-percentile lead of Aquino over Villar.

This indicates how closely fought the election race has become. The 631,000 votes are not a pittance. This explains why Aquino has deputedly changed his campaign style and has become more aggressive and combative, to put Villar on the defensive. He is fighting to stop Villar from wiping his previous lonely turnout margin.

In the survey, Aquino led Villar 27-22 in the ABC Class and 49-24 in Class D, while Villar led 30-10 in Class E, which makes up 71 percent of the 40.5-million voters. These class statistics help explain why Villar has been bombing mass media, especially TV, with political ads addressed to the popular mass (the 71 dacers—like "Sa Bulaga" and "Showtime"—patronized by the poor. This is the class war that is taking place, in the bosom of the poor.

Unlike Mendiola, Villar invaded the bastion of the Makati big business establishment, where he appeared at the Makati Business Club election forum to inform them of his policy platform, which has remained hazy up to this time. He knew he was talking to the lions in the den of the rich, although businessmen have been more than the mass of Class E, the last learned from Joseph Estrada that the MBC was one of the strategic groups, including the army and the Catholic Church hierarchy, that withdrew support from him in Edsa 2 in 2001.

Though a billionaire, Villar is a nervous rider and is not comfortable in the company of the old money families dominating the MBC. He said he was happy to appear at the club "because there was no pope in the club" the MBC, but I assured no none here so that they will hear my views and see what I plan to do for our country. The business sector is important to... in reviving poverty" he pushed this pin-poor line in his efforts to disarm the MBC members.

A survey conducted from Dec. 8 to 18 in 2009, among 800 members, revealed that 60 percent would vote for Aquino, Villar received only 7 percent, lower than former Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro's 11 percent.

He said, "Given my background, my humble beginnings... I think it would be unfair to dwell on what [taken as is] different. But to point out what we have in common," he likened the election of a president to the selection of a business chief executive officer, who is a "true leader," taking into consideration the interests of the stakeholders. The country has no many stakeholders problems and too many competing interests it will need a strong leader with a proven track record to even have a chance." This was a swipe at Aquino, who has been criticized for his lack of executive experience. He promised a "strong and honest government," if elected.

When Villar was asked about the C-5 road expansion project, some observers said he announced it because Aquino opposed it, "His motto said he failed to explain why and how he got embroiled in the controversy.

Villar also said he could not promise not to inject new taxes, unlike Aquino who told the MBC members that he would be hard on corporate tax evasion because he knows it should penalize. MBC reserve director Alfonso Lim said Villar made an "excellent delivery" of his platform, but gave "imperfect answers" to different issues.

"He is not a politician," Lim said. But I don't think he changed people's mind," Lim said.

Jose Ibuklao, publisher of a business publication, had a different opinion. "I think there may be a significant shift in the MBC's mindset," he said. "So will as a shift in the thinking of the intellectual members after his presentation today."

The MBC will conduct another survey before the election. "We'll see if there have been changes since our last survey in December," Lim said.

# Carnival

LEST 1986 [illegible], A PERIOD OF SOLIDARITY AND OF penitence which can be quite serious with Catholics. At our time, Catholics were required to abstain from flesh meat on Lent and in lieu on to Fridays. Violations were considered a mortal sin, which means you were straight to hell if you died before you could get to confession.

Fortunately, in the past decade or so, the rules have been relaxed. I don't have to worry when/happened to all the good creatures who will be left for eating meat.

PINOY KASI

*Michael L. Tan*

(That last piece I have written about how we used to observe Lenten practices rather mindlessly, forgetting that the vibe behind fasting and abstinence is to refrain from pleasure as well as to share the suffering of those who are hungry.)

## Mardi Gras

Today's column is about the carnivals right before Lent. I am referring to the now-world famous (or notorious) Mardi Gras, the best known being that of Brazil, where hundreds of thousands of revelers converge on the streets and avenues of Rio de Janeiro and other major cities for dancing, drinking, eating and more... The festivities are so strongly rooted that the government and NGOs distribute condoms during the Mardi Gras, similar to what happened in Alaska's Running of the Bulls (Inquirer, 2/16).

Mardi Gras is one big street party, with a long parade of floats, actually a competition of Brazil's many samba schools, each float representing a school, with their best dressed getting awes in the audience-contests.

Another well known Mardi Gras is that of New Orleans in Louisiana, which is also marked by intense street revelry as though the entertainment is provided by jazz performers. There are also carnivals with a strong emphasis on the use of masks, recreating the scenes of New Orleans jazz and big masquerade ball.

Pacific Island lingo that "Mardi Gras" is French for Fat Tuesday, a term coined centuries ago to refer to the last day before Lent begins. The gras (fat) refers to the lingering on food before going into a season marked by fasting and abstinence from them.

The Mardi Gras celebrations are usually part of a larger Carnival, which started out as a religious-festival right before Lent, marked by feasting and merrymaking and street partying, often associated with masks (the more lent known as those of Venice). Besides lusty carnivals are found in many European countries, even where Catholics are a minority. They are also found in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, as an extension associated with local Catholics. In Goa they're called farsee and in Kerala they're known (familiar to the Pope).

"Carnival" is a word with Japanese origins in Italian, meaning at's "eaten bruise," which means "to remove meat" and refers to "meat-less rule" or "farewell to meat." There is even the "carnival" term it's actually "farewell to the flesh"—so literalistic.

Social activities have evolved these festivals and incorporated such as a kind of late tradition. Hey, indeed a farewell to the flesh, before going into a penitential mode. It's without fear, What you have to do is to enjoy yourself to the fullest and get all the sins you want out so as to make the passage worthwhile.

The Mardi Gras and carnivals are also marked by "excesses," with people intentionally violating societal norms in an excessive way. The masks give people the anonymity with which they can challenge these norms.

I have never been privileged to have a Carnival or Mardi Gras in the Philippines, at least not in the way like in New Orleans etc. The Catholic religious festivals are only a handful in number (the Black Nazarene in Quiapo, the feasting in Cebu and the Ati-atihan in Kalibo, Peñafrancia in Naga, Lucban, and Mahal na Poon ng Krus in Cebu). The Sinulog and this ethnic do take on some qualities of the Mardi Gras but are very much contained in those of Rio or New Orleans.

We had the Manila Carnival from 1908 to 1938, usually held in February, but these were the years being religious. The original idea for the Manila Carnival was an exposition to display the products of the Philippines, which was patterned and emanating from the 1904 St. Louis Exposition where more than a thousand Filipinos from all over the islands were put on exhibit for the Americans to gawk at.

## Carnival Queens

In the end, the Manila Carnival became a showcase for America's civilizing mission in the Philippines, providing mass entertainment as well as civic education through government-sponsored floats. For example the Bureau of Health had floats with health-related themes, and also provided books for health education. With time, the floats became more elaborate, and the parade more elaborate. There were also athletic events and various competitions, and a search for a Carnival Queen. This search was actually a popularity contest, where people bought votes. The Manila Carnival became one big high-society event.

By 1938 the Manila Carnival began to lose beauty contests, with panels of judges. The contestants had their costumes, with the winner having a King Crowns. Those men came as well from Masbate aristocracy in 1935, the King Crowns was Gregorio Lafia, who had a degree in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a master's in business engineering from the University of Michigan and a PhD in Physics from the Sorbonne. He was senator in what Philippines Esperanza Lacsamen, whose he married that same year, presumably after the Carnival.

For some Filipinos today, carnival simply refers to a fun-ferris in Filipino) with food-stalls, games and sometimes rides. The fairs are held in the open air malls, easy to put up and dismantle and rented out to town/building officials, or to schools celebrating an anniversary.

I suspect we don't have large Mardi Gras-type activities because we already have such a long Christmas season extending through all the "ber" months (September, October and beyond), up to early January (observed) and today from that-vanished Christmas, we can't afford a Mardi Gras. So we wait until May with its many fiestas which do have carnivals (meaning the ferris-wheels and bumper cars).

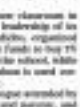
Our fiestas include many of the festive features of the Mardi Gras, such as the parades, the elaborate costumes and dancing displays, even fabricating events and wearing them into the fiesta routine.

The summer nervous-system with the Summertime, originally departing various themes from the Bible and Christian church history. Over the years, many communities have affiliated with the Santacruzan, which is also a May event. Even fiesta Reina (Queen fiesta) are joined by many, complete with their sponsors and escorts. Like the Carnival Queen, even are held in where summer wins will have the honor of playing Reina Elena (the empress-helena, mother of Constantine), the Reina Dolorosa (Sorrowful empress), etc. All in good fun, quite harmless, nothing than an everything, from greater categories to history to carnivals and carnival queens.

Hon. Mon Casiple's email@inquirer.com.ph for a great personal history of the Manila Carnival.

# Inspiring philanthropy

AT LARGE



*Rina Jimenez-David*

LOVELY OF PHILANTHROPY HAVE FALLEN in the wake of the global economic crisis, admits Peggy Dulay-Rockefeller, who was in town recently to address participants in "Leap: the Change to Charting Philanthropy for Asia" organized by the Knowledge Channel Foundation.

But there's one sign, she said, that the generosity and number of donors worldwide are on the rise, "with more people giving the second one down."

In this globalized world, she says, there is a need, now and other, that graduates from Rockefeller and the Harvard Business School of Education, she ran an alternative high school in Hawaii and then went on to establish a career in social work and philanthropy. She is the granddaughter of David Rockefeller, Sr. In 1997, she founded Synergos Institute, working with partners in more than 30 countries and regions on "address global poverty and social injustice by supporting and connecting leaders using cross-sector collaboration to change systems that help people to prosper."

It was through Synergos and the Global Philanthropists Circle that she met Nina Lopez Ascona, president of Knowledge Channel Foundation, which has been active in the Philippines for quite a few years, and "matured and took roots."

Explaining the work of Synergos, Daisy finds other similar to basically "bringing together people from diverse backgrounds: philanthropists and activists" and "creating a space where they can work together, exercise and capabilities for joint projects. In the Philippines, one such project is the "Building Bridges Leadership Journey" workshop for "young high-potential" leaders from different sectors of society (business, government, civil society) to meet people like the young workshop participants.

* * *

**ERRATA:** simply as a home idiot and common blunder, Dahaya Rockefeller with Synergos executive Barry Gan, Lopez Ascona and other artists/friends a backstage exhibit last Wednesday to visit the Museum Kalayaan Central School in Batangas. Museum Kalayaan is the general museum/ artistry of the 2009 Knowledge Channel Outstanding Individual/Group Award. (Hence, mainly for harnessing the resourcefulness and energy of our just-the-teachers and administrators



tion, but also of parents and the community to spread the benefits of the Knowledge Channel to more young people.

**From a single TV set in one classroom in 2000, the school under the leadership of its principal, the Lopezian Lydia Bocalan, empowered teachers and parents to raise funds to buy TV sets for all 27 classrooms in the school, while ensuring that the IC curriculum is used accurately and to maximum effect.**

**The school's party held a dialogue attended by** school and division officials and parents, and alliance all three sets in short-pitches for the positive effects of Knowledge Channel on the children, finally, said Alan Tipon, president of the Parents-Teachers-Community Association (PTCA), there was some resistance from the parents when IC was brought in, "but we saw the good effects of the program, and we agreed to raise funds to buy more sets so that we could be fairly distributed to classrooms."

The mother of a Grade 4 student recounted that she observes her son settled from school, he would regale her with stories of what he had just learned from the IC shows, especially in science.

Indeed the stories of effects on the quality of education that children were receiving the parents agreed that "our children are as good as education here as they would be get once when or even in the city" since IC serves as some sort of level, supplementing classes that over 2,000 schools around the country. "Our children can hold their heads up high," endorsed one mother.

* * *

AFRIL, a selected group of students met with the group for a dialogue, although they were too shy to speak up. But, asked what they favorite IC show was, many chimed up: "The science shows!"

The children not their photos, however, which prodded to show off their singing and dancing prowess. As this, they scrambled to clear the floor and took their positions to perform "Buong May Ki," the theme song of the Knowledge Channel, complete with choreography and to both Filipino and English versions.

"I am very impressed!" remarked Dolmar Rockefeller subsequently about why she thought after meeting the parents and children. Indeed, looking at the children, their bright well-scrubbed faces and pleased confidence, it seemed the future lies in good hands, indeed.

* * *

**WITH IT.** Nitty-counting widespread drought in many areas of the country, we can expect not low damage to crops and diseases(s) reduced harvests, but also many more people going hungry. Which is why the government's National Nutrition Council announces its steps to ensure access to the poor to the people at P22 per kilo.

But even before El Niño struck, the government had already put in place programs to help farmers cope with the crisis. The Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC), which is being carried out by 18 national departments and agencies spearheaded by the National Securities Council, reports the following accomplishments:

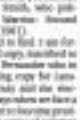
● 87 Barangay Rapidcast Centers in the priority provinces were established benefiting 73,000 households. The new centers bring to 406 the cumulative national total.

● 97 low pesticide, high-value varieties of farm commodities and 18 units of Bucket dryers have been constructed.

● Under the Food for School Program (now the feeding program for students in day care centers to Grade 6), about P15,000,000 has been released to help farmers grown rice to qualified beneficiaries.

# Magsaysay and the busted spark plugs

LOOKING BACK



*Antoinette R. Orosa*

EDMUND DANIEL LANSDALE IS A FASCINATING character in Philippine history. He was in the stuff of legend and he left us with a wonderful memoir "In the Midst of Wars: America's Mission to Southeast Asia" (New York, 1972). Filled with amusing anecdotes that soften and obscure the more violent side of his career. "In retrospect the tasks he did in the Philippines and Vietnam and elsewhere set up the Series Brigade, which carried out some pretend killings, with the end result to justify the means.

It is not needed to comment on the anecdotes I selected but they were interesting for the study of Philippine folklore, to cite only the cleaning, in counter-insurgency. She said that the Philippine sewing doesn't have two holes on the back, Women's designs style. One sewing, the sentimental one, some around with long pointed tongues that form the eyes and nose. It is said better to suck out the last blood and viscera but that fiction, animal babies, as well.

Those tongues were useful when people still lived in houses with thatch roof and bamboo-slat flooring. If there are cracks and crevices down the tongues can enter. The other choice is cement even for in an urban environment without getting caught in TV antennas and tangled cable and electric connections.

The next exchange on the sewing made me realize that Lansdale's amusing anecdotes hinges no longer the past that also one sanitized for the new era as amusing bit of poetry.

Lansdale had many nicknames in Manila: "Big one" because he had a mustache, "Eagle" (because of his initials "EGL"), and, following Magsaysay's rise to the 1953 presidential election, "Landslide."

It is said that Lansdale was the inspiration for the main character in Graham Greene's 1955 novel "The Quiet American" which was made into a film of the same title in 1958 and re-made in 2002. Lansdale also inspired the 1958 best selling novel "The Ugly American" by Eugene Burdick and David Lederer. One can only conclude that literary is indeed grist to the mill.

It is hoped that those who were through and survived the risk rebellion of the 1950s will put pen to paper and complete our picture of that chapter of our history. So far the only tales made available are the tape was written by pro-American Americas, Joseph Buckhouser Smith, who published "Portrait of a Cold Warrior: Second Thoughts of a Top CIA Agent" (1981).

Lansdale's book is quite hard to find. I am the reason to have an excerpt upload copy, handed to me by a former diplomat. With Permission taken in his search down some interesting copy for Lansdale. The chapters on Magsaysay and the situation are quite relevant these days when we have a handful of individuals who want to become president. So, perhaps I will write a series of columns on elections in Philippine history, but today I want to share something relevant to the news that Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Mayo Lt. Antonio Trillanes were granted bail by the courts but will remain under "hospital arrest" because there is still more may be bailable but there is no way they should not be out in the air.

If I remember right, one of the issues raised by the Oakwood mutineers was that some unscrupulous people in the military and defense depart-

Comments are welcome at rosaorosa@yahoo.com

ments were buying substandard materials and supplies for the service, selling some and pocketing the rest? If this is true, are those accusations changed in the past half century Lansdale wrote:

"Successful practices by the Huks were refused to some extent by technical means. One was the many bullets they had, or decreasing hand grenades from authorized issue, and the consistent shortage of supply. I asked them if conventional ammunition could be made and entered into the stocks being delivered secretly to the Huks. They agreed. After weeks of work by the two chiefs, wounded soldiers entered requesting that they had found grenades getting off to vendors. I publicized the complaints, supplying right in the hands of Huk ammunition. Incidents of attacks on the wounded declined sharply. Meanwhile, government counter troops reported a success new pharmaceuticals on the battlefield. Huk rifle bursted when exploding from the use of locally made ammunition and a small computer that ran those sets of ammunitions to the Huks proved to a belt. Only bolts began to fire them."

Lansdale also recounted that at one time a tank stopped and failed to support the infantry fighting the Huks. Investigation revealed the engine and wiring skills he learned as a mechanic, found the problem: busted spark plugs. The tank was brand new, someone had exchanged the new spark plugs for old ones and made money. Magsaysay was furious and had a number of officers court-martialed. Some were hanging embarrassment and suspension. Some were sacked. Is anything comes mind concerning the present? If this is true, are those accusations changed in the past half century Lansdale wrote:

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# Tips on how to survive in politics

REGARDING TO DR. ROMULO Hinds of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), one wonders do not vote for good governance. (INQUIRER, 2/2/10) If his word, Ronald U. Mendoza of New York combined gate-crasher politics as a typical strategy of the "trapos." (INQUIRER, 2/1/10)

For the incoming batch of political neophytes who are aspiring to try their luck in the May 2010 elections, it would pay to study carefully the sound strategies of the seasoned politicians who were able to survive the cut-throat of being "trapos." The following are self-inflicted punishments, to be taken with a grain of salt, if you want to survive as a "trapo."

1. Get used to being canvassed by the media as the man without a conscience and the guy without a moral impulse.

2. Get used to the dirty look, the scornful face and an irating finger of the people you may have insulted and deceived.

3. Get used to compulsory headaches on the side effects of irregular transactions.

4. Get used to the insurmountable piles of summary complaints, or dishing out endless recommendations and empty promises, to harassing lies of all kinds.

5. Get used to developing and polishing major leftover aptitudes for all occasions.

6. Get used to getting votes under great difficulties and losing money and invasion with no difficulty whatsoever.

7. Get used to character assassination in privilege speeches, displayed as "in aid of legislation."

8. Get used to party espionage and sabotage, as in "wire-tapping" and "wheeler-dealing" by your favorite collaborators.

9. Get used to being indicted at first, tortured next, then double-crossed and, finally, let down.

10. Get used to being grilled, cross examined, pilloried, hamstrung, tortured and mastercated to your limits.

It's up to you now, whether you have the guts to play and the game of traditional politicians.

—MARIO G. AGUADO, III
81-C Capricorn St.,
Brandy City 7200

If you have any complaints, grievances or appreciation about the treatment of your card photos for the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Cebu Daily News, or Philippine Daily Inquirer, Cebu Bicol Bureau, contact Nanie and Manuel's Photo City of Malolos or send a fax to 880-4765, 880-4764, or e-mail manuelandnanie@inquirer.com.ph

Millions of letters to the editor are expected to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter which such information is omitted.

## LETTERS

## Villar's attitude very revealing

THE TITLE OF AMANDO DOROY'S Feb. 8 article, "Villar shows rules of forum on disciplinary action," created the impression that it was an endorsement of Sen. Manuel Villar's position relative to the forum action on the C-5 controversy.

For his and many millions of Filipinos who are clamoring for blatant misrepresentation of Villar, Oseteda's concluding paragraphs, entitled "Premise of Villar's attitude," gave us the opposite impression that the majority of our electorate may be as perceptive after all.

—ALFREDO S. JOAQUIN,
93 Castillo St.,
Barangay Cipang Norte, QC

## Candidates who deserve to be elected

THOSE ARE MY CANDIDATES in the May 10 elections. They should be courageous enough to fight for fiscal reforms by advocating:

1. A law taxing religious entities. Church collections, in whatever way they are collected, must be taxed. Moreover, expenses on programs or projects providing free housing, free education, free hospitalization and medicines and the like should be deductible from taxable net collections.

This way religious groups will also be led back to their Christian values and will leave the pitch of capitalism in which many of these have developed. Profit-making is not a Christian act. And religious leaders must be made to pay taxes; it would be godly for them to do so. Also, there is necessary for a wholesome and genuine Church-State partnership.

This will also prevent religious leaders from the temptation of corruption and minister, if not totally eradicate, the deviation of church funds to real estate "investments" and worldly endeavors.

2. A sound tax (French Model) on imported products will strict the importation of products with inferior quality and regional treaties, but all products sold in the domestic market shall be covered by all-payment sales tax. A 12-15 percent VAT should be imposed on importations.

This will protect local products especially the farmers and fisherfolks' and encourage direct investments.

3. The nationalization of power and water utilities. Buy them back from multinationals predators and dealers. All concession agreements should be revoked.

The candidates all-out-to those reforms in order to get the intelligent vote and to be elected.

—RAMON C. ACOSTA,
ramlegarde@yahoo.com


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## Bedridden pensioner needs quick GSIS action

AS A SURVIVING SPOUSE OF THE LATE public school supervisor and World War II veteran Pedrito Pagao, Ms. Amelia A. Pagao should get one-half (1/2) of her husband's monthly pension from the Government Service Insurance System and the whole of P5,000 old-age pension from the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office. When she suffered a stroke, she had to be operated on to remove a blood clot in her brain. Though she survived, she is bedridden, aphasic, she is now bedridden and can no longer go to the GSIS Satellite Office in Davao to receive or encash her e-Card.

As a result, Ms. Pagao has not received her GSIS pension as it is only the person herself who appears before the GSIS Satellite Office located behind the provincial capitol building late enough to bring to the attention of the GSIS manager the predicament of his mother. He was made to sign a request for a retainer. However, no one has visited his mother until now.

Ms. Pagao's monthly old-age pension of P5,000 minus P500 is not enough to pay for her maintenance medicines. She hopes that her problem with the GSIS premier be given attention by GSIS officials.

—GODFREDO S. PETILLA SR.,
29 Ilaya Street,
Barangay Catandungan,
East, Camarines Norte 4600

## Military police justified in arresting 'Morong 43'

I AM REACTING TO THE NEWS STORIES ON the "Morong 43." They claim to be doctors and health workers and the raid, arrest and subsequent detention immediately drew ire and condemnation.

Based on layman reports, I've made my own conclusions. I am then inclined to agree with the arresting teams of soldiers and police. The morning was out of the ordinary, and the very fact that the arresting elements had raid, their deadly weapons and were assisted by the law should be cause for alarm.

As a general principle, nothing in the barrios and in Negros Oriental for nearly 10 years, I've established regular trainings for local health workers and volunteers. (These people provide a very important service in their communities.) But while anyone could sit in and listen to the lectures, not just anybody could become a health volunteer. Community health service requires someone made of stronger stuff but, with a comprehensive basis. To do community health work, one needs to appreciate and understand medicine and its practices. Community health workers care for children, elders, families and people with disabilities and illnesses. And it also falls upon them to conduct health awareness campaigns in their local communities; therefore, they should be good communicators and have interpersonal skills so they will be understood by the locals.

We conducted our trainings in open places—e.g., barangay halls, basketball courts, gyms...so that those interested could sit in. It was to ensure health awareness to one and all.

Based on my work experience, I find some of the arrested people as unlikely health volunteers, especially because they have questionable backgrounds and because of the doubts—are they duly held the meeting. I don't think that law enforcers will go around with legal basis. I mean, in our medical activities, the local government units and the police even welcome working with us. So, I am thinking that there must have been justifiable reasons for raiding the meeting. If it were up to me, it would be better to allow their presence as an observer and follow the law enforcers as parliamentary duties.

I hope that issue will give the critics a different view of the raid. They could be wrong and they might end up eye shaming the very people they have criticized. At this time and age when there are so many imposed acts of terrorism, we should take the presence of unusual persons and explosives very seriously.

I also wish that the authorities will be able to coordinate with the Department of Health and local government units as soon as possible (the, to verify the intentions of the 43 because it is a serious matter and the people should know if it would be proven that they were only masquerading as health workers, "an abuse to all those who have undertaken the noble service of medicine and put at risk the health and well-being of patients.

—DR. HUMBERT C. REYES, M.D.,
hmd@redstar4921@email.com

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Assistant Editor Tony Burgonio
Across the NATION

# More murders feared as 2 bets slain

TWO MURDERS, TWO PLACES, same motive—elections

The killings, that of a member of the Ampatuan clan in Maguindanao and a former mayor in Negros Occidental, could have been committed hundreds of kilometers apart but are bound by what police said was their common driving force, politics.

In Maguindanao, Dato Ilyod Ampatuan, village chair of Pinamasaan in Datu Blah town, was gunned down as he drove his motorcycle. (Ai-ai Dan Rubrigo Amirate post 7 p.m.)

Senator is member of the opposition slate, whose several other members are facing charges in connection with the Nov. 23 mass murder in Ampatuan town in the province.

### Assassin waiting

Senior Supt. Wilfo Marquez, Cotabato City police chief, said Ampatuan's killers apparently tailed him and attacked when Bituan reached a secluded area.

Bituan, a member of the administration Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition, is running for mayor of his town.

Enriquez said his killing was likely related to the election.

Bituan's killing took place roughly 20 km from Ampatuan town where the Nov. 23 mass murder took place.

The murder also occurred while the city is still under a state of emergency.

### Cathedral killing

In Bais City, former mayor Lutz Mendia Jr. of Pulupandan, Negros Occidental, died after he was shot at close range outside the Bais Cathedral.

A lone gunman reportedly shot Mendia, 53, past 6 p.m. as he left the cathedral with his wife, Perlinda.

Perlinda told radio station dyRT the thought at first that the hand burns of firecrackers until she saw blood oozing from her husband.

They were with a granddaughter during the murder, Perlinda said. The child, she said, held on to the back pocket of her husband as he was being shot.

The former mayor was about to cross his red Mazda pickup when the gunman came armed with a .45-cal. pistol, police said.

Chief Insp. Gily Calubaste, Bais police station chief, said the gunman fled in a motorcycle.

Lutz was rushed to the hospital, where he died.

Chief Supt. Isagani Cauvan, regional police chief, ordered a task force created to oversee the investigation of the murder.

### Pulupandan politics

The 53-year-old Mendia was running for mayor of Pulupandan against incumbent Mayor Magdaleno Peña, fueling speculation that the shooting could have been politically motivated.

Supt. Ranulfo Dronio, public information officer of the Police Regional Office 6, said investigators who assembled a cadre even on the case Thursday have pointed to the political rivalry in Pulupandan as the main motive in the killing of Mendia.

"We are not discarding other angles, but politics is the main angle being looked into," said Dronio.

Mendia filed his certificate of candidacy on Nov. 28 to run for mayor of Pulupandan against Peña, who defeated his brother Jimmon Mendia for the same post in 2007.

His sister, Gina Mendia-Villanueva, 43, also filed her COC to run for vice mayor against Peña's brother in law, incumbent Vice Mayor Antonio Sumergido.

Shortly after the 2007 elections, Peña was injured after he was ambushed in Pulupandan but two of his bodyguards were killed. The New People's Army claimed responsibility for the ambush. Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao; and Carla P. Gomez and Nestor Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

**RURAL TEXT**
A farmer uses his mobile phone to send text messages as he passes through a narrow road in a farm in Lechon, Quezon. (EDGAR SUSCANO FILE)

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL POLLS

# Trader, 2 others beat disqualify bid

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THE COMMISSION ON Elections (Comelec) First Division on Wednesday dismissed the disqualification cases filed against businessman Allen Benitez, another congressional candidate and a candidate for mayor in Negros Occidental.

The division dismissed petitions to disqualify Benitez and Murcia Mayor Esteban Concillado, who are rivals in the race for a House seat in the province's third district.

The petition on disquality Judith Concillado is a separate candidate was also dismissed.

Benitez said he had expected the Comelec to dismiss the disqualification case against him for lack of merit.

He said the petition had no basis from the start and the Comelec simply set the record straight amid rumors that he would be disqualified.

Benitez said the camp of rival candidate Ed Victor Bonoan were behind the petitions.

Mayor Concillado, in a text statement, said he was pleased that the petitions were dismissed, saying it was "no realization that playing dirty politics will not bring anyone far."

Yolanda Lim, 56, who was in the hacienda Iris, Sitoula, Talisay City, last month also said he was satisfied seeing the petition for disqualification filed in his name against Benitez. The hacienda is owned by the Lizares family, of which Jimmon is a member.

The petition alleged that Benitez was not a resident of the third legislative district for a year as required by the Comelec.

Lim said a person associated with Jimmon asked him to sign a blank sheet of paper to help the campaign of his employer. Lim maintained that he was not aware of the claims made in the document.

Jimmon, however, denied being responsible for the petition filed against Benitez.

# Massacre victims' kin raise doubts on escape of suspect

LIBERAL, SANTOS CITY—RELATIVES OF some of the victims of the Sept. 21 Maguindanao massacre said they have started experiencing doubts that justice will ever be served to them.

"We don't expect that we will get justice under the present administration. How can a high-profile crime suspect escape? Maybe he was allowed to escape," Mahin Subang, widow of journalist Reynaldo "Rey" Subang, told reporters in Barangay Liberal here Wednesday.

> 'If we are denied justice, God's wrath will come upon them anyway ...'

She said the family received information Ailan was not actually locked up.

"The information we got was Ailan was not placed behind bars. He was just staying in a cottage inside the Sultan Rudiarul Provincial Jail," Subang's widow said.

With Ailan's escape and the slow progress of the case against the suspects in the massacre, she said she and the families of the other victims were losing hope the perpetrators will be ever be brought to justice.

Dennis Ayon, husband of lawyer Cynthia Dapanda-Ayon, said he was not surprised by the escape.

"They have done the worst. Escape is just a means thing for them to do," he said.

Ayon said he was not expecting too much from the government.

"We can hardly move on if we expect too much from people manipulating us," he said.

"If we are denied justice, God's wrath will come upon them anyway," Ayon added.

Senior Supt. Roberto Fajura, Sultan Kudarat provincial chief, said the four jail guards on duty at the time of Ailan's escape were being investigated.

He said they will be held responsible.

Fajura said a murdaya operative or recruiter Ailan was also launched Wednesday.

Ailan, suspected to be involved in the massacre because of his closeness with prime suspect Andal Ampatuan Jr., was arrested in December during a raid by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG-12) on his farm in Quirino, Sultan Kudarat.

Seized during the raid, which was part of the search for Ampatuan armaments, were two fragmentation grenades and an Armalite rifle. He was charged with illegal possession of firearms. Agustin Zerda, Inquirer Mindanao

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# LP being harassed in provinces, says mayor

**PILGRIMAGE SITE**
A statue of Jesus stands atop a mountain in Cauayan, Quezon, in a pilgrimage site that attracts thousands of devotees during the Lenten season. CESAR RAMIREZ/CONTRIBUTOR

SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA—A town mayor in Rizal yesterday assailed what he said was a systematic harassment of Liberal Party (LP) candidates in his province and elsewhere, saying it revealed a longer plan by the ruling administration to control as many local government units as possible.

Pedro Cuerpo, mayor of Binangonan (formerly Morong) in Rizal, said it was a "silent but systematic crackdown."

Cuerpo was suspended again as mayor of his town after he defied loyalties to the LP.

"The facts speak for themselves," he said.

"In Isabela, it was Gov. Grace Padaca who was taken out. In Pampanga, it was Gov. Eddie Panlilio, and in Batanes, Gov. Jorjon Mendoza."

### Independent minds

He said the crackdown was aimed at eliminating independent-minded local executives and "replace them with stooges of this administration."

Sen. Rodolfo Ocampo, who filed his candidacy as an LP member to represent the fourth district of Leyte, has just also been disqualified from the elections for the lack of proof of his residency in the province.

Cuerpo, in a statement, said he himself was a victim of this "ruthless policy which is being imposed throughout the country."

Just a week since he reported back to office on Feb. 9, Cuerpo was slapped again with another suspension order, which he said was his fourth.

In 2008, Cuerpo said incumbent Gov. Casimiro Ynares and the provincial board of Rizal had ordered him suspended over what Cuerpo said was an invalid municipal ordinance.

### Palace gives, takes back

He said the governor again placed him under a two-month preventive suspension for alleged "misconduct in office" and "abuse of authority."

The provincial board ruled on the case and suspended Cuerpo for six months.

The mayor appealed the case before Malacañang and the Palace reversed him a day earlier.

However on Jan. 6, Malacañang reversed its earlier decision, thus, paving the way for the implementation of the six-month suspension order of the provincial board.

Cuerpo had filed his candidacy for governor in the May elections against Ynares, a close ally of the Arroyo administration.

In Davao City, Sen. Manuel Roxas II, LP vice presidential candidate, said although the administration was harassing LP members, the party was drawing strength from those supporting it.

Roxas said a number of Lakas-Kampi-CMD stalwarts and members of other parties were expected to defect to the LP as the election draws near.

"We expect many defections to come our way not only from Lakas but also including other political parties," he said before supporters here on Wednesday.

Roxas did not say who from Lakas were joining the LP.

*Marvin Sy Limos, Inquirer Southern Luzon and Judy Quiroz, Inquirer Mindanao*

# Pangasinan folk not asked on nukes, says solon

AGBAYANI

COJUANGCO

DAGUPAN CITY—Officials and concerned communities in Pangasinan expressed surprise at the null decision of the approval by the provincial board of proposals to build at least two nuclear plants in the province, with one legislator saying there was no consultation held in the first place.

Rep. Victor Agbayani, Initao-Liwa-ran governor, said the board resolution inviting South Korea to build nuclear plants in Pangasinan "appears to have been passed in haste."

"It will give the Korean government an impression that Pangasinan is agreeable to having a nuclear plant built here, when in fact the people have not been heard," Agbayani said.

Margaret Colmenares, environmentalist and chair of the Bulacan Marine Ecological Fund Foundation Inc., said the resolution should not have been approved without thorough study.

The board voted 7-1 in favor of the resolution, with two abstentions in a marathon session and committee hearing on Monday.

The coastal areas are environmentally critical," said Colmenares, who led opposition to a similar plan in the 1990s. "They should have worked it first."

Agbayani, in a statement, said Pangasinan is already home to many of the biggest sources of power in Luzon—the 1,200-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Sual town and the San Roque hydropower plant.

"Pangasinan has already done its share," said the congressman.

"We must always consider the negative impacts of the operation of the power plants along an active fault line," he said.

Nicanor Melecio, chair of the Pangasinan Institute for Land and Aquatic Resources, said he wondered why the resolution was approved only here even as study is on.

Pangasinan Rep. Mark Cojuangco had written the provincial board to ask them to invite the South Korean government to build nuclear power plants in Pangasinan.

*Gabriel Cardinoza and Yolanda Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

## *Ilocos cops seize more toy guns than real ones*

DAGUPAN CITY—POLICE in the Ilocos have seized more gun replicas than real guns at checkpoints on barring the election gun ban and during inspections of toy stores in four provinces in the region.

Chief Supt. Constante Rimes Jr., Ilocos police director, said 600 gun replicas were confiscated, mostly in La Union and Pangasinan, a number higher than the 90 real guns recovered since the gun ban was imposed on Jan. 10.

Rimes said 522 gun replicas were seized in La Union, 226 in Pangasinan, 16 in Ilocos Norte and two in Ilocos Sur.

The replicas look like real guns and can be used in threatening people, especially at night or in the dark, said Senior Supt. Sid Tabilo, La Union police director.

"Some are sold openly in shopping malls, toy stores, public markets and street bazaars.

"It is only those that look like real guns that are confiscated even if sold," Rimes said in saying many gun replicas do not resemble real guns."

Tabilo said the bus driver and passengers could have abandoned the vehicle and left the gun replica there after they saw the checkpoint.

Senior Supt. Percival Barbo, Pangasinan police director, said store gun replicas were seized in the province because of raids on stores selling toy guns.

"But we have stopped raiding stores anymore, we are focused now on checkpoints and on confiscating loaded guns and arresting those violating the law," Barbo said in a telephone interview.

He said they considered the appeal of owners of toy stores and have stopped conducting raids.

"But if gun (replicas) are sold in the streets or the buyer holds the toy gun or displays it, the vendor and the buyer will be arrested," he said.

He said it was up to police officials on how they would store or dispose of the gun replicas. *Yolanda Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

## 4 dead in fire in Cebu

CEBU CITY—FOUR DEFunct used in a fire that gutted an apartment building here, police said yesterday.

The charred remains of the dead were found in one of the units of the apartment on 2 Rodriguez Street in Barangay Capitol Site in this city.

PCO Romano Gonzales said the bodies were no longer recognizable but they could be those of four missing occupants of Unit C of the building, owned by a Nilanie Tan.

Gonzales identified the occupants of the Tan apartment unit as Rolando Cabrera, 43, a retired manager of Philippine Airlines; his daughter Marie Christine, 16; his grandson Miguel Paulo, and Jessie Selip Abon Dela Torre, a native of Cauayan City, Negros Occidental.

Three of the bodies were found near low doors each other while the third body was found in the basement.

It was the fourth fire in Cebu this month. Last Saturday, a woman died in a fire in Mandaue City. *(John G. Aragon, Inquirer Visayas)*


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FORMULA FOR HAPPINESS FROM HIGGINS: I run out less of a person because my body is broken and I don't dwell on what I don't have. —RICCO OCAMPO

# Exec in constant pain 'Happiest Pinoy'

From page A1

For him, happiness is the precious smiles of children whenever he twists balloons or performs magic tricks, among other things.

"Seeing people around me makes me happy. I feel a sense of fulfillment when I see children, as well as other people, without bitterness or arrogance, enjoying themselves," he said.

"A smile is, I think, something you can't buy."

Manzon is the winner of Cebuana Lhuillier Insurance Solutions' Awards For the Happiest Filipino. He was one of seven finalists in the first-time awards that, according to general manager Jonathon Kanargian, was intended as a reminder of the Filipino's best quality in these trying times.

## Tough on judges

At the awarding ceremony on Sunday night at Hard Rock Cafe Tomasinos, University of the Philippines president Dr. Emerlinda Roman said she and the other judges had trouble picking a winner because of the finalists' varied perspectives on happiness, the main criteria for the contest.

"As we interviewed the nominees, we became aware that there are many different views of happiness," Roman said in a brief speech.

"We were humbled by many of the finalists because of their inner strength which pulled them through, their optimism and their faith," she said.

The finalists were awarded cash prizes. Manzon, the winner, received P200,000 and a trophy made of resin.

Roman said the panel of judges at tallied three qualities in the finalists—positive outlook, ability to rise above challenges, and positive impact on the community.

She said these could be "measured in terms of life satisfaction."

The other judges were environmentalist Tessy Cruz, Lhuillier executive Jose Miguel Zaldivar, Asian Institute of Management dean Victoria Licuanan, Gawad Kalinga chief Antonio Meloto, Bishops Ramento chair Rebecca Ochoga, Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca, and business man Manuel R. Pineda.

## Situational questions

During the interview last month with the panel of judges, Manzon waited to be asked the whys and wherefores of happiness. But his experiences fell short.

"The judges asked me situational questions. They asked me to narrate an event in my life, and I told them how I responded to the situation," he said.

In retrospect, he added, "they wanted to know how I reacted to problems."

Manzon is perhaps in an enviable position, considering that he is the chief operating officer of Doctors Philippines, an aluminum manufacturing enterprise.

But for every smile flashed and joke cracked, there is a gesture of pain—a constant reminder of his mortality for the past 30 years.

As the rest of the millennium, Manzon—diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis, which causes severe aching in parts of his spine and pain in his lower back due to acid dripping.

He gets by with a daily dose of pain killers and a quarterly infusion of a drug to loosen the tendons in his back.

Research is ongoing to determine the cause of the disease and find a cure, according to medical websites.

## Acceptance

At first, Manzon said, his diagnosis was tough to process because his second child, Emma Kei, was born with Down syndrome and needed regular physical, speech and occupational therapies.

"I have graciously accepted that this is my life now," he said in his acceptance speech. "I am not less of a person because my body is broken, and I do not dwell on what I do not have."

After the diagnosis, Manzon spent some seven years on chemotherapy. He took oral steroids just to make it through the procedure, but doctors chose to stop the treatment because it was not helping ease the pain symptoms.

Doctors then tried using spinex to manage the pain, Manzon said. He took the additive medicines gradually so as not to be hooked.

Now he is on a different, more effective, treatment. "I wouldn't be talking to you right now if I'm in pain," he said over the phone yesterday.

Still, pain is a constant companion. "When I wake up, I'm in pain. I don't have a good night's sleep because of the pain," he said.

"But that's not the end of the world. There are a lot of beautiful things that you have to be thankful for. I'm very happy in one of them. All you have to do is make the decision to be happy."

## Asthma etc.

Early in his life, Manzon spent years managing asthma and allergy attacks while studying at Ateneo University, where he acquired a degree in political science, cum laude.

While in school, he represented the youth sector of Dumaguete City in 1988.

At the Ateneo de Manila law school, he still moderated and kept an oxygen tank at his side. But he was able to graduate, thus chasing his dream of becoming a lawyer like his father.

Opportunities in government service opened up, and Manzon spent the first years after law school working for the administration of President Corazon Aquino.

In 1998, he ventured into the private sector and climbed the corporate ladder of Interwise Philippines.

## 'They have the edge'

In an interview after the awarding ceremony, Roman said she and the other judges were puzzled whether the trials that the candidates experienced in their lives had affected their world view.

"Should they go through such challenges for them to be happy?" Roman said.

"We discovered that to a man, they have the edge. There are people who don't go through difficulties but are happy anyway," she said.

Asked how the challenges in his life had affected his view of things, Manzon said: "I wouldn't know if I'm like this (because of) the problems.

"One thing is sure, though: These challenges have made me a better person."

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**CIRCULAR No. 682**
Series of 2012

Subject: **RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR COOPERATIVE BANKS**

Pursuant to Monetary Board Resolution No. 102 dated 11 February 2012, following are the revised rules and regulations governing the organization, membership, establishment, administration, activities, supervision and regulation of Cooperative Banks to implement the provisions of Chapter XIII of Republic Act No. 9520 otherwise known as the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008, which amends Republic Act No. 6938 (likewise known as the Cooperative Code of the Philippines).

**SECTION 1. Statement of Policy.** The Bangko Sentral is committed to developing a sound and vibrant cooperative banking sector to support the growth of rural economies and communities. Toward this end, these rules and regulations recognize the unique nature and mandate of Cooperative Banks while at the same time ensure that they are operating within a level playing field with other types of banks and thereby comply with banking laws, rules and regulations.

**SECTION 2. Definition of Cooperative Banks.** A Cooperative Bank is one organized for the primary purpose of providing a wide range of financial services to cooperatives and their members. It shall be organized only by cooperative organizations that are duly established and registered under the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008 (RA No. 9520).

A cooperative organization is a duly registered association of persons with a common bond of interest, who have voluntarily joined together to achieve their social, economic and cultural needs and aspirations by making equitable contributions to the capital required, patronizing their products and services and accepting a fair share of the risks and benefits of the undertaking in accordance with universally accepted cooperative principles.

For purposes of these regulations, a Cooperative Bank shall, likewise, be considered a cooperative that should be registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), subject to the requirements and issuance authorization of the BSP.

**SECTION 3. Registration, Application Procedures and Pre-Operating Requirements for Cooperative Banks**

1. A prospective Cooperative Bank shall file its application for licensing as a bank with the BSP, and upon approval, shall be registered with the CDA.
2. Duly registered cooperatives applying for authority to establish a Cooperative Bank shall submit the documents enumerated in Section 4, Appendix 38 of the MORB to the Central Applications and Licensing Group, SES.
3. A Cooperative Bank established under RA No. 6938 shall comply with the pre-operating requirements specified in Section 11, Appendix 38 of the MORB.

**SECTION 4. Capital Requirements.** Cooperative Banks that will be established under RA No. 9520 shall have a minimum paid-in capital of Ten Million Pesos (Php 10,000,000.00).

No cooperative member shall own or control more than forty percent (40%) of the total capital contributions or a Cooperative Bank. This limitation shall also apply to cooperatives purchasing government-held preferred shares of Cooperative Banks which are converted into common shares.

Cooperative Banks shall issue par value shares only.

**SECTION 5. Members of the Board of Directors, Officers, Quorum and Voting Rights**

1. The definition, qualifications, responsibilities and duties of the Board of Directors and Officers that are generally applicable to all banks under Sections 8140 to 8143 of the Manual of Regulations for Banks (MORB) shall also apply to Cooperative Banks.
2. Cooperative Banks shall, likewise, comply with the following regulations on the minimum qualification requirements of the members of its Board of Directors and Officers:
   a. At least one (1) member of the Board of Directors of a Cooperative Bank shall have one (1) year experience in banking; and
   b. The manager of a Cooperative Bank must have actual banking experience (at least manager or assistant manager).
3. The quorum requirement for general assembly meetings, whether special or regular, shall be one-half plus one of the number of voting shares of all the members in good standing.

   The quorum requirement for amendments of articles of cooperation and by-laws shall be three-fourths (3/4) of the number of voting shares of all the members with voting rights, present and constituting a quorum.
4. The voting rights of members shall be proportionate to the number of their paid-up shares. Existing Cooperative Banks shall amend their Articles of Cooperation to conform to this provision within a period of one (1) year from the effectivity of this Circular.
5. In meetings of the board of directors, whether special or regular, the quorum requirement shall be one-half plus one of all the members of the board of directors. Each director shall only have one vote.

**SECTION 6. Membership in a Cooperative Bank**

Membership in a cooperative bank shall either be regular or associate. Regular membership shall be limited to cooperative organizations which are members of common shares of the bank. Such common shares shall not be redeemable but may be sold or transferred to qualified member cooperative organizations.

Associate members are those that subscribe and hold preferred shares of the bank, the features of which shall be defined in the Articles of Cooperation. Associate members may include, but shall not be limited to, individual members of the bank's member primary cooperatives.

In the case of Samahang Nayon (SN) and Municipal Federation ng mga Samahang Nayon (MFSN) which hold common shares of Cooperative Banks prior to the effectivity of this rule, they shall apply for conversion to full-fledged Cooperatives in order to maintain their status as regular members of cooperative banks.

Cooperative Banks shall inform their member SN and MFSN that they have to convert to full-fledged Cooperatives within a period of one year from 02 March 2012 satisfactory to PA No. 05/2012. If the SN or MFSN fails to do so, the Cooperative Bank concerned shall convert the common shares held by such associations to preferred shares. The conversion to full-fledged cooperatives and conversion of common shares to preferred shares shall both be reported to the BSP within six (6) months from effectivity of this Circular.

**SECTION 7. Establishment of Cooperative Banks**

1. In case five (5) cooperatives may form a Cooperative Bank: Provided, That majority of the Cooperative Bank's common shares of stock shall be held by member cooperatives except in the said province where the head office is located. The said majority requirement shall be maintained on an ongoing basis, except in meritorious cases as may be allowed by the Monetary Board.
2. Only one Cooperative Bank may be established in each province. However, an additional Cooperative Bank may be established in the same province provided, that the additional Cooperative Bank shall be located in a city or municipality other than the city or municipality where the first Cooperative Bank is located. The establishment of another Cooperative Bank will be authorized depending on the economic conditions of the province as may be determined by the BSP.
3. The Articles of Cooperation and By-Laws of any Cooperative Bank, or any amendment thereof, shall be registered with the CDA only when accompanied by a certificate of authority issued by the Monetary Board, under its official seal.

**SECTION 8. Establishment of Branches and Other Offices**

1. The Cooperative Bank or the province may set up branches/extension offices other banking offices (OBOs) anywhere within the province subject to compliance with the applicable branching rules and regulations as provided in Section 8130.2 of the MORB.
2. Cooperative Banks from other provinces may not up branches/extension offices/ OBOs in cities or municipalities where there are no other Cooperative Bank head offices/branches/extension office.
3. The establishment of branches/extension offices mentioned in items 1 and 2 above shall be subject to the following minimum combined capital requirement:
   a. At least Php 10 Million (Php 10,000,000.00) to establish branches/extension offices anywhere within the province where its head office is located;
   b. At least Php 50 Million (Php 50,000,000.00) to establish branches/extension offices in any island group (i.e., Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao) where the head office is located, except in Metro Manila;
   c. At least Php 100 Million (Php 100,000,000.00) to establish branches/extension offices anywhere in the country except in Metro Manila unless the Cooperative Bank is qualified to establish a branch/extension office in Metro Manila and/or outmost areas as provided in items a.1 and a.2 of Subsection 4131.2 of the MORB on the branching guidelines.
4. Other relevant branching rules and regulations which are not inconsistent with the above provisions shall continue to be governed by Section 8151 of the MORB.

**SECTION 9. Powers, Functions and Allied Undertakings of Cooperative Bank**

1. A Cooperative Bank shall primarily provide financial, banking and credit services to cooperatives and their members, although it may provide the same services to non-members or the general public.
2. The powers and functions of a Cooperative Bank shall be subject to such rules and regulations as may be promulgated by the BSP. In addition to the powers granted to Cooperative Banks under existing laws, any Cooperative Bank may perform any or all of the banking services allowed by other types of banks, subject to prior approval of the BSP.

   Consistent with existing rules and regulations applicable to banks other than universal banks on limits on investments in the equities of financial allied undertakings under Section 8316 of the MORB, a Cooperative Bank with existing investments in insurance companies, including insurance cooperatives, shall not increase but may reduce and once reduced, shall not increase such equity investments. Cooperative Banks that have holdings shall be divested within a period of five (5) years from the effectivity of this Circular.

**SECTION 10. Privileges, Incentives and Assistance for Cooperative Banks.** The Cooperative Banks shall be given the same privileges and incentives granted to rural banks, thrift banks, commercial banks, and universal banks in refinancing loans with the BSP, the Land Bank of the Philippines, and other government banks.

The foreclosure of mortgages covering liens granted by Cooperative Banks and execution of judgment thereon involving liens granted based upon by a court shall be exempt from the publications in newspapers now required by law where the amount involved, exclusive of interest, charges and costs, does not exceed Php 250 Thousand (Php 250,000.00) or such amount as the BSP may prescribe as may be warranted by prevailing economic conditions and by the nature and importance of the Cooperative Banks. It shall be sufficient publication in such cases if the notices of foreclosure and execution of judgment are posted in conspicuous places in the municipality or city where the property is located. The notice shall be posted half and the sheriff's return thereof, if any, where the property mortgaged is situated during the period of sixty (60) days immediately preceding the public auction or execution of judgment. Proof or publication as required herein shall be accomplished by an affidavit of the sheriff or officer conducting the foreclosure sale or execution of judgment and shall be attached to the records of the case.

**SECTION 11. Applicability of Banking Laws.** With respect to the operations and supervision of cooperative banks, the provisions of the banking laws, rules and regulations shall prevail, notwithstanding Section 71 of RA 6938, otherwise known as the Cooperative Banking Act of 1990.

**SECTION 11. Effectivity.** This Circular shall take effect fifteen calendar days following its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

For the Monetary Board:

(Sgd.) **AMANDO C. TETANGCO, JR.**
Governor

15 February 2012

# Power crisis in Mindanao perils May election

From page A1

is a prolonged dry season.

For the past months, the dry spell has dramatically cut the capability of its hydropower sources to generate electricity, said NGCP which transmits high-voltage power from generators to distributors.

"Contingency reserves is zero due to generators' deficiency caused by reduced capabilities from two hydropower plants—the Agus 5 hydropower plants—the Agus 5 hydro with 50 percent reduction and the Pulangi plant with 75-percent reduction," NGCP said.

The Mindanao grid has been on red alert since last month, although on some days—from zero to just recalm—the alert status is lifted, said Carlito Claudio, NGCP vice president for operations.

NATURAL WONDER The Maria Cristina Falls in Iligan City, along with the Agus River, provides electricity to Mindanao. The dry spell has dramatically cut the volume of water that powers hydroelectric plants. RAUL BANOG

## Batteries on standby

NGCP has warned of a possible power supply crisis in Mindanao during the elections. Claudio said the Mindanao grid might experience a 144-MW deficit in May.

In a hearing in the House of Representatives, Claudio said what on Election Day, Mindanao would have a "small shortage of four megawatts but this can be offset if we are able to tap some of generators in the grid."

The country will hold its first automated general elections on May 10. Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS) machines will be used nationwide for the casting of ballots and the counting of votes.

## Embedded generators

In case of a power outage, a PCOS machine can use its battery, according to the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Pio Benavides, National Power Corp. (Napocor) senior vice president, said Bayu was already talking with owners of "embedded generators" that could provide up to 50 MW of additional electricity on May 10.

Embedded generators are privately owned generators like those in malls and electric cooperatives.

Benavides said at the hearing the "mothballed" Iligan diesel power plant could also be used to provide an additional 10 MW on Election Day.

"If that four megawatts can be supplied, we will have no power problem on Election Day," Claudio said.

An opposition lawmaker warned that Mindanao's worst might not be averted on Election Day because of the power crisis.

## Failure of elections

"There can be failure of elections in Mindanao which will result in 13 million votes being lost out of the 50 million votes (Luzon-wide.) Then, we will have a problem if this will not be solved," Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez said at a House energy committee hearing.

Pinamungajan Rep. Rodolfo Cuenco asked for the breakdown of the power shortfall at the provincial level but no one among the invited panelist could provide it.

"One province can decide the outcome of these elections especially if that province will experience power failure," Cuenco said.

## Emergency powers

Rodriguez and Cuenco should give President Macapagal-Arroyo emergency powers to address the problem.

He suggested that Congress hold an emergency session and grant Ms. Arroyo emergency powers under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) to allow Napocor to negotiate with private groups in supply energy to Mindanao.

Pinamungajan Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, chair of the energy committee and son of the President, was cool to the idea of granting him another emergency powers.

"For now, I believe that what is important there is no fear of any supply shortage in Luzon and the Visayas. The only issue is Mindanao and the Department of Energy is doing something about it," Arroyo said.

## Cancellations

In Zamboanga City, Bayu said the power supply shortfall in Mindanao was "not acceptable because it will not just affect the residences but commerce and industries as well."

Bayu said the worsening power situation in the country was the reason he was hesitant holding constitutions.

He said one proposal being pushed was the implementation of Section 71 of the Epira law which allows Napocor "to generate, operate and lease power to consumers other than existing private franchise operators."

Bayu said another proposal was to encourage more companies to put up power plants. "But with the low tariff rate in Mindanao, private firms are having second thoughts in investing here," he said.

## Villar nervous about automation

SEN. MANUEL VILLAR (3) expressed serious doubts that the Comelec can undertake automated elections.

Villar, Nacionalista Party standard bearer in Iloilo City, called on Comelec Chair Jose Melo to be straightforward this early and resort to partial automation, or revert to manual elections if need be.

"I'm nervous about this," Villar said at a press conference at Hotel del Pilar before the start of a daylong hearing on a bill that would include the leaders of Bantay Bayan and Jaro.

He said he was not confident about the automated elections. "I hope we pull this off, but it's not easy to experiment with our democracy," he said.

Asked if he would recommend that late the scrapping of the whole automation process, Villar said: "It's not all or nothing. It can be partial. It can be a phased automation."

Villar was also worried that losers in a computerized ballot may might not be able to accept defeat. Michael Lim Ubac

Claudio expressed optimism that the power supply in the Visayas would stabilize over the next few months.

## New plants in Visayas

He said less wind of the coal-fired power plant of Cebu Energy Development Corp. would begin commercial operations in the first half of the year.

The first unit, which has an 82-MW capacity, will start operating next month. Also in the pipeline is the 200-MW Kepco-Salcon power plant in Negros Occ.

These power plants are expected to boost the power supply in the Cebu-Negros-Panay grid.

Claudio added that the Leyte grid might be able to supply Mindanao if the electricity requirements of the Visayas grid.

Power supply in Luzon has stabilized with the operation of 540-MW Limay combined cycle power plant in Bataan. By May, 1,000 MW of power facilities in Luzon would have completed their maintenance repairs.

# Isabela farms worst-hit among 14 provinces; crops lost total ₱1.3B

From page A1

ies, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Masbate, Antique, Guimaras and Negros Occidental.

## More losses in corn farms

Dir. Teresita Pamaypay-Arroyo conceded that the two major problems that could arise from El Niño were a food shortage and diminished farm income.

"The 90th (National Food Authority) has already approved a general rice importation. But (Agriculture Secretary) Arthur Yap says the local supply is not going to be affected. It's about the farmers' income," she told reporters in Davao City.

Nationwide, Dasac reported that the corn sector suffered more losses in terms of volume and value, compared with the rice sector. It said calamities have had dried up 110,748 hectares of corn fields and ruined 144,359 tons of corn valued at ₱1.88 billion.

A total of 35,360 hectares of rice fields have been damaged, according to Dasac's team of uprooted rice (palay) lost, which was valued at ₱802.84 million, Dasac said.

## Damage to fruits and vegetables

Damage to fruits and vegetables was placed at ₱1.39 million.

Isabela has lost corn and rice crops valued at ₱1.2 billion and ₱625 million, respectively. A combined figure of 101,669 tons of corn were damaged in 71,157 has of land, and 144,359 tons of palay in 87,050 has.

## Alternative livelihood

Misbitsching yesterday advised agriculture Secretary Yap, who also heads the Task Force El Niño, to look for other means of livelihood for farmers affected by the drought.

"We want to pay attention to the livelihood. Farmers who can't plant should be given a new source of livelihood. That's a major concern for the task force," Secretary Ricardo Saludo said.

Saludo, deputy presidential spokesperson, appealed to the farmers and the public not to panic because the agriculture department had already undertaken measures to address El Niño, including a shift to alternative crops, installation of shallow tube wells, and flood seeding.

"If we weren't logged, we won't experience this. We should conserve water. If we engage in panic buying, we'll be creating more problems," he said. "We've lasted El Niño before, even worse in years past, and we've been able to get through it."

His critique has capped the Armed Forces National Capital Region (AFP NCR) Command to help in plugging leaks in Metro Manila.

"A lot of work is being done in plug leaks. Even the (AFP) NCR Command is helping plug leaks. The MMDC (National Disaster Coordinating Council) is headed by the defense chief, and El Niño is considered a calamity," she said in Davao City.

## Water resources

Mr. Arroyo has issued administrative Order No. 2278 directing government departments and agencies to undertake urgent measures to ensure the optimum use of water resources in Metro Manila.

The ordered the Philippine National Police to assist the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and the water concessionaires in enforcing antipilferage measures.

She instructed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to supervise/monitor water allocation and releases to the MWSS and the National Irrigation Authority.

The President directed the agriculture department to coordinate or subsidize land-soaking activities of the Angat Hydroelectric Irrigation System to make sufficient of available water for irrigation.

"All government agencies and instrumentalities shall assign water marshals and shall undertake water conservation and assessment projects, acting as reference point, water consumption in January 2010," Mr. Arroyo said in the order.

## Food aid, emergency jobs

A shortfall in water supply in Metro Manila is expected during the first quarter as an effect of El Niño.

Yap said the department's response to the field reports (RTCs) on the local government units had already been drawing up names of farmers eligible for food aid under the Emergency Food Assistance Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Separate jobs are being prepared for those qualified to enroll in skills training programs of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority for possible emergency employment, such as the construction of repair of farm-to-market roads and irrigation facilities, he said. *With a report from D'Alergenia*

HIGH AND DRY Nacionalista Party standard-bearer Sen. Manny Villar and running mate Sen. Loren Legarda listen to farmer Pio Bernardo of Barangay Bongas in Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo, explain how the drought has affected his rice field. JOY NACIOS

# Loren: Where are El Niño funds?

By Michael Lim Ubac

BAROTAC NUEVO, ILOILO—Nacionalista Party (NP) vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda yesterday took Malacañang to task for failing to properly release emergency funds for El Niño under the 2010 General Appropriations Act.

Legarda demanded the prompt release of the funds after talking with rice farmer Pio Bernardo while campaigning in this third-class municipality in the first rice producing province in Iloilo City.

Bernardo complained to Legarda and NP standard-bearer Manuel Villar that the weather phenomenon had drastically reduced the palay harvest from the usual 120 sacks of palay to a measly 10 sacks per cropping on his 1.5-hectare farm.

"It's a yearly cycle," Bernardo said.

Legarda, chair of the Senate committee on agriculture and food, said the El Niño funds should be released by the budget department to rehabilitate the irrigation systems and small water impounding projects of local government units, farmers and cooperatives.

## P3B-1 million needed

In Manila, the Department of Agriculture said its task force on El Niño would spend an initial P882.18 million to help affected farmers and fisherfolk in 14 provinces in Luzon and the Visayas. The dry spell in these areas is expected to last until July.

"Yes, we have funds because previously from the Mulanpaya (national aid plus replenishment) that should have been the source of (cash gifts) vouchers of former Cmdr. Bayo," Bayang have yet to be released," Legarda said.

"Second, there's a provision for El Niño because the Department of Agriculture budget, which I worked for, a climate sensitive," said Legarda, the United Nations' regional champion on climate change and disaster risk reduction.

According to Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, the task force had set aside P32 million for cloud seeding in northern, central and southern Luzon, Iloilo, Negros Visayas, Cotabato, northern Mindanao, Davao and Kondabangsa (Nueva Cotabato-Cotabato-Sultan Kudarat-Sarangani-General Santos).

Some P588 million will be spent on optimizing water delivery and rescheduling, P996,930 for the purchase and distribution of 2,500 units of pump and engine sets; P35 million for pest and disease management; P1.349 million for veterinary drugs and biologics; P35 million for mobile diagnostic laboratories; P164 million for fishery inputs and livelihood; and P6.9 million for crop shelving projects.

## CDA report

A militant party-list lawmaker warned the Arroyo administration's "lack of preparedness" to help farmers fight the El Niño phenomenon, saying this could be due to the "rampant corruption and wastage of funds" in the agriculture department.

Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano cited a 2008 Commission on Audit report, which raised that the department "wasted almost P7 billion and in the "top performer" in wasteful fund management either through botched project implementation or unsung and diverted funds."

"Almost everybody in the agricultural department is fully aware that El Niño will be the country Gulag (sarcastic) funds intended for farmers and agriculture to counter drought are nowhere to be found," Mariano said in a statement. *With reports from Philip G. Subaco and Alma T. Dalmacio*

# Gibo impresses MBC but GMA ties hurting him

From page A1

Aquino was roundly applauded by the organizations, many of whose members constituted the "yellow army" of his mother; the late President Corazon Aquino. Villar's reception was lukewarm.

### Articulate, clean

Lim said there was no question about Teodoro's intellect and his relatively clean image. However, being the candidate of the administration's Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition made the business sector wary of him.

"He has ties with the administration. That's why his ratings are so low. He's articulate and clean, but we don't want him associating his day with Arroyo. If he had run under the (Nationalist People's Coalition), his rating would have been four times higher," he said.

"We come as many people in the administration. Even if he says there will be no special favors, it's difficult because he's not independently with like Villar. He relies mostly on party funds," he added.

### Deficit main concern

Lim said the MBC would conduct similar poll of its members regarding their view for president and vice president in May observing separate hopped the poll in December last year, garnering 61 percent of the votes. Teodoro was second with 14 percent and Villar third with 7 percent.

Former Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia said that judging from the platforms that Aquino, Villar and Teodoro had presented to the MBC, it was obvious that they all want to address the country's deficit.

"The deficit this year is not going to be that much less than in 2009. They have different ways of addressing the fiscal deficit. In the business sector, we just want to make sure that the fiscal deficit is addressed right away," he said.

As for Teodoro's GDP and per capita income targets, Cuisia said these were "doable," with "political will and good governance."

### 'It's a real pity'

"It is a real pity that he is associated with, based on the survey findings of the Social Weather Stations, the most disliked president in the post-Marcos era," said MBC chair Ramon del Rosario Jr.

Del Rosario also said the MBC was hopeful that Teodoro would address some of these concerns. Whether his association with Ms. Arroyo, if he wins, would translate to a continuation of current policies.

Teodoro was asked how he would be different from Ms. Arroyo and to what extent he would hold her accountable for alleged irregularities.

He said he would review the performance of the Office of the Ombudsman when asked how he would address government impunity.

"But in an interview later with reporters, Teodoro said he would just have to live with the group's negative perception of his links with the Arroyo administration.

"They know better than that because I've worked with some of them before, and I think they know the capability of (wife) Jenee," he said. "There are some situations where you just have to accept where you are."

But Teodoro also stressed that even if he did not get the full backing of the MBC, which had been critical of the Arroyo administration, at least he was able to present to them his plans for the country.

"Even if they don't support me and if I win, I would still need to work with them and at least they know where I am coming from," he added.

ON THE ROAD Liberal Party campaign manager Sen. Francis Pangilinan poses with Aloy Lim (representing bet Ireland Clamy Lim) and other candidates Franklin Drilon, Rico Hontiveros, Nora Aceda, Martin Bautista, Yasmin Bocton-Lao and Betty Blanco at the launch of the LP bus at the Pueblo Panay Volunteer Center in Caloan, Quezon City on Thursday.

HIS TURN Administration presidential candidate Gilbert Teodoro speaks before the Makati Business Club at Intercontinental on Thursday. The MBC is believed to be the ballwick of Teodoro's cousin, Liberal Party standard-bearer Sen. Benigno Aquino III.

### Tall order

In his 30-minute speech, Teodoro used the program to boast growth and economic gains and "tall order" but said that a good fiscal policy and good governance would make his plan realizable.

Pointing out that education is the country was "inherently regressive" and citing the need to improve human capital, he also vowed to roll out a student loan program to be managed by a public trust institution with "proven competence and credibility."

This could be made possible by asking the Congress to appropriate P70 billion to P9 billion during the first year of implementation, he said.

### Invest in irrigation

He cited the importance of investing in irrigation systems to help our farmers, especially those who live in the fringes of the land to back typhoons late last year and now, the onslaught of the El Niño phenomenon.

"The world have heavy cost on the government but we should be able to help those farmers even now until the next planting season," he added.

# 3 presidential bets seeking Magdalo support; both LP, NP say they got it

From page A1

also working with the group.

The Magdalo officer requested anonymity, saying he did not want to preempt any decision the group would make as it was still consulting the members of its grassroots organization called Sandatahang Magdalo.

"The group is still fine-tuning some things before formally making an announcement," the officer said.

### Critical issues

Referring to the Villar and Aquino camps, the officer said: "There are talks (with them) ... There are still critical issues to be discussed."

"Nothing is final yet. There are deal breakers that might come along," he said.

While the source declined to elaborate, the officer said that primarily for the detained Magdalo soldiers was securing the "critical issues" being discussed with the standard-bearers of the Liberal and Nacionalista parties.

### 300,000 votes

The officer said the group had 50,000 card-bearing members and 250 chapters nationwide and would deliver 300,000 votes to a candidate.

He said Aquino and Villar were seen as "basically even" but Hamabang Magdalo members.

"If our criteria is who is personally the better leader, then he would be the one chosen by our individual members," the officer said.

Asked who else would be, the officer said: "Villar."

### Pols initiated talks

A Makati court has granted bail to Trillanes, 16 Magdalo soldiers and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim in connection with rebellion charges arising from the 2007 Peninsula Manila takeover during which they called for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Trillanes previously declined because of a pending case in a military court in connection with the 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

Lim is also still detained, the others separate military cases arising from the Peninsula Manila hotel takeover and the 2006 Marine standoff.

The Magdalo soldiers are also still detained for alleged Aug. 2003 failed coup d'etat in connection with the Peninsula takeover.

The Magdalo officer said it was the Villar and Aquino camps that initiated the talks with the group. Last October, the group endorsed Sen. Francia "Chiz" Escudero for president but the latter backed out of the race.

The officer said his group was discussing a new choice for president believing it "should take part on who should be the best leader to steer the country out of its critical state."

### Five visits of Villar

An emissary of Aquino on Tuesday visited the group at Camp Crame, where Trillanes and his co-accused are detained, while Villar has visited them at least five times, the officer said.

He said his group was not concerned about rumors that Ms Arroyo was secretly endorsing Villar.

"If Villanueva (a ruse)," the officer said, referring to the top pick on Villar by his rivals, "why would the pro (Villar) talk to them (Magdalo group)?"

NP spokesperson and senatorial candidate Gilbert Remulla confirmed "there are talks" with the Magdalo group, adding that Villar told Trillanes "ano Hindi ako always wanted each other's respect."

"It would be a plus for Senator Villar if he is endorsed by (Trillanes) but I don't know yet if he will," Remulla said, adding he did not want to preempt anything.

Silvestre Lacierda, a spokesperson for Aquino, said the Tarlac senator decided to seek the Magdalo's support after Escudero quit the presidential race.

"If you remember, they came out with ads supporting Chiz. Siempre was their next choice after Chiz. So after Chiz withdrew, Noynoy decided to approach them," Lacierda said.

"There's nothing to negotiate with that, na (as there is still no feedback) ... there is still no endorsement," he added.

### Members will decide

Drilon, who also visited TLU

BY HIS LOOKSIDE Presidential candidate Nicanor Perlas checks his notes before the start of the dialogue at Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, on Thursday. Other presidential bets on board are JC de los Reyes, Bro. Eddie Villanueva and Sen. Jamby Madrigal.

## *Loren offers to take Trillanes, others in custody*

By Michael Lim Ubac

ILOILO CITY—NOONTIME: Any Party (NP) vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda is willing to take detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV under her custody after a Makati court granted the leader of the Oakwood mutiny and his co-accused to post bail while on trial.

"I am willing to take on my recognizance Sen. Trillanes and the other soldiers facing charges before a military court," Legarda told reporters during a campaign sortie.

Legarda welcomed the court's decision, saying "I'm glad to hear that the justice system seems to be working properly."

She joined Judge Elmo Alameda of Makati for his "fairness and impartiality" in granting the detained soldiers bail of P200,000 each.

The judiciary said it would not release the soldiers because they were still facing general court martial cases.

Legarda also pushed for temporary liberty for Col. Ariel Querubin, who faces mainly charges before a military tribunal for the alleged attempt by soldiers to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo in February 2006.

Querubin is running for senator under the NP.

"We just hope that the law is fair to all. We hope Colonel Querubin will be given a chance to campaign and not wait for May 10 before he is freed," Legarda said.

Several other NP senatorial candidates joined calls for Querubin's release. Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo and Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza said Querubin should be allowed to campaign around the country.

# Tiger Woods breaks silence on sex scandal on Friday

From page A1

ment comes to relay the event live, but he won't take questions, agent Mark Steinberg said.

While Tiger feels that what happened is fundamentally a matter between him and his wife, he also recognizes that he has hurt many and he is sorry for other people who were close to him," Steinberg said in a statement.

"He also let down his fans. He wants to begin the process of making amends, and that's what he's going to discuss," he added. "His attendance will be open to a press pool for live coverage. It is not a news conference."

It remains to be seen how deep Woods will delve into the scandal that erupted around him in the wake of a mysterious car crash outside his Florida home in the early hours of Nov. 27 last year.

### A seeker of women

Shortly before Woods' crash, the National Enquirer published a story claiming the champion golfer had been seeing a nightclub hostess.

After the crash, a seeker of women claimed they had affairs with Woods, and he became a target of tabloids and television comedians.

In December last year, Woods announced via his website that he would take an "indefinite break" from golf.

"I am deeply aware of the disappointment and hurt that my infidelity has caused to so many people, most of all my wife and children," the married father of two then said in a statement on his website.

"I want to say again to everyone that I am profoundly sorry and that I ask forgiveness," Woods added.

TIGER WOODS Coming out, but on his terms. REUTERS

### Sex addiction rehab

Since then speculation has raged as to the 34-time major champion's whereabouts, the state of his marriage and just when and where he would make his return.

In January, widespread reports placed Woods at a rehabilitation clinic in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where he was receiving treatment for sex addiction.

"It's encouraging that he's coming back to at least be seen by the public, and that's a relief too," friends Open champion Stewart Cink said at the Accenture Match Play Championship in Arizona.

"I don't know what he's going to talk about," Cink said. "I think that is maybe the begin

# Wildfire razes 500 hectares of dry grassland on Mt. Asog

BOGA CITY—AMID THE DRY spell, a wildfire swept through 500 hectares of grassland and shrubbery on the flanks of Mt. Asog in Cabanatuan first before it was controlled on Wednesday midnight.

The 3,116-meter high Asog is an active volcano and straddles Iligan town and Iriga City.

"The direct cause of the fire is still unknown, although initial investigations point to human activities in Mt. Asog, including those of wild pig poachers and honey gatherers. Although the wildfire was aggravated by the dry spell, it (dry spell) is not seen as the direct cause of the fire," Chief Insp. Juan B. Paz, fire marshal of Iriga, said yesterday.

Iriga Mayor Madelaine Alcober-Guzman, however, said foreigners started the fire, which spread on dry weeds.

But said the wildfire had threatened farming areas on the lower slopes of the mountain, especially those in Barangays Santiago and Sta. Elena.

In 2007, a wildfire occurred on the slopes of the mountain during a mild El Niño phenomenon. Philippine Bulletin, Inquirer South areas.

# MILF: Yes to peace deal now if it's binding on next admin

By Ryan D. Rosauro
in Cagayan de Oro City
and TJ Burgonio
in Manila

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—THE separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is willing to submit the government's pact, within what's left of the term of President Macapagal-Arroyo, as long as it will bind her successor in "in spirit and in substance."

MILF peace panel chair Mohagher Iqbal yesterday said they are on the government's part, the obligations would expire only include substantive issues in the legal framework of the state, including amendments to the Constitution.

"We cannot escape constitutional issues because we are dealing with a government," Iqbal told the Inquirer.

But for the agreement to be acceptable to the MILF, it should confirm the constitutional changes and the new laws and policies to be instituted in order to back the political settlement, he said.

Iqbal cited the peace accord between Indonesia and the Banda Aceh rebels, as well as the Good Friday Agreement that settled the conflict in Northern Ireland.

In each of the cases, the peace agreement become part of the state's legal framework, principally amending the basic charter.

Under the MILF proposal, the obligations will be met by both the separatist group and the government and subjected to independent review and oversight, Iqbal said.

### Like Sarawak

He said the conversion of the International Contact Group (ICG) into a monitoring body had been proposed.

The ICG was formed to guarantee the compliance of both groups with any ceasefire reached during the peace talks. The idea of its inception cropped up in the wake of the aborted signing of the controversial Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain, which led to a brush with the Philippine Army.

The Bangsamoro solution being proposed by the MILF is seldom in aspiration for self-government is "similar to Sarawak," Iqbal said.

Sarawak, the largest of Malaysia's 13 states, was an unsuccessful attempt to become a British colony in 1946. In 1963, it joined Sabah and the former Crown colonies in Malaya to form the federation of Malaysia.

Under the terms of federation, according to the General Intelligence Agency World Factbook, "Sabah and Sarawak retain certain constitutional prerogatives" like the right to maintain their own immigration controls.

Iqbal said the MILF was confident that the next administration would honor a signed peace agreement "as we are dealing here with a government, not a specific (president-to-be)."

But he said any accord would not be final.

ABROAD: Peace pact should be binding on her successor

### Who knows?

"We do not believe in the finality of negotiations in a political solution, but a comprehensive compact that would address as many issues that form the heart of the Moro conflict," he said.

Early this week, the President's adviser on the peace process said the MILF should not discount the possibility of its Aroyo pushing for a constitutional amendment that would clear the way for a federal setup in Mindanao.

"The President—since she's leaving, she's on her way out—can't promise. She no longer has the prerogative that entails Charter change, either in a plebiscite or in Congress," Annabelle Abaya said in an interview on Feb. 15.

But Abaya said she should not be a reason for the MILF to lose hope. "Who knows whom she will be in the next administration? She could still be in a position to push such changes."

In an unprecedented move, the rebels is seeking to appoint the second district in her home province of Pampanga. Her allies predict that she will climb a seat in the House of Representatives and even get elected as Speaker.

### Solution

Abaya spoke of Charter change in general terms. But she conceded that the MILF had always pushed for "a Bangsamoro solution within the Philippine state."

The next day, Feb. 16, Iqbal confirmed that the MILF was demanding a federal state.

But he complained that the MILF demand was not mentioned by the government in its own draft agreement.

The complaint threatens to derail the resumption of formal negotiations on Sunday—just a final peace agreement before the end of Ms. Arroyo's term in June.

### Open to Charter

Abaya said the government was open to discussing the MILF's proposed changes in the Constitution.

"It's not that we're saying that these changes should not happen, or that we're rejecting them. We're saying, 'Let's discuss it.' It's not to be a joint action in the sense that we will have to campaign for it," she said adding.

"What we'd like to see is the MILF (looking) at this process collaboratively."

Abaya said the idea of a federal state would require long discussions.

"Are they asking for a federal or type of government? Are they asking for a special administrative region, ... or an autonomous region like Scotland, Ireland, ... a Mexican type of relationship? That's not clear yet. So we have a lot to discuss," she said.

In its draft agreement, the government proposed "enhanced autonomy" for the autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"It's necessary to set up a technical working group with various aspects from different sectors—the economy, labor, perhaps agrarian reform, land, maybe finance—in order to be able to detail how to execute (this proposal)," Abaya said.

### Prospects 'not good'

But the MILF said the proposal was a rehash of old agreements, and declared that the prospects for an agreement were "not good."

Bill Rissalo Imlada, a spokesperson of Ms Arroyo, disclaimed speculation that the peace talks had again reached an impasse.

"The main thing is that we have a ceasefire that is holding, there's continuing communication (between the two camps), and the international community is (in) pressed behind both sides," he said.

# Now Comelec seeks celebs for info drive

From page A1

take a leave from TV shows or radio programs, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) is seeking to enlist their help for its voter education campaign.

Election Commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal yesterday said that celebrities could help the poll body spread information on automated balloting and instruct voters on the proper way to vote in the May 10 elections.

"The Comelec is appealing to (media personalities and celebrities) to help in the voters' education campaign. If you would like to help out but don't know how, come to the Comelec and we will discuss it," Larrazabal said.

Celebrities who have announced support for certain politicians are also welcome to work with the Comelec.

"The details will still be worked out since we don't promote a particular candidate or party. What we want to promote is voters' education," Larrazabal said.

He acknowledged that the Comelec could not match the estimated P200 million celebrities get from politicians.

### Appeal to patriotism

"We will appeal to their patriotism and sense of loyalty to the country because not only one person will benefit ... the love for the country is more important," he said.

The Comelec is finalizing its voters' education campaign that will be shown on television and aired on radio soon.

"You can never have enough. If we are doing (a music video) (television) activities, we can always do more," Larrazabal said.

The Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting had urged celebrities who are identified with certain candidates to take time off from their duties during the presidency of the Fair Elections Act.

### What law says

The law says: "Any mass media columnist, commentator, announcer, reporter, or any correspondent or personality who is a candidate for any elective public office or is campaign volunteer for or employed, or retained in any capacity by any candidate or political party shall be deemed resigned, if so required by their employer, or shall take a leave of absence from his/her work as such during the campaign period."

The law aims to level the playing field among candidates.

Earlier this week, the Comelec decided to allow celebrities and show hosts to campaign for their candidates without taking a leave of absence from their shows.

The poll body said it would be up to the networks to demand if they wanted their partisan talents to take a leave of absence.

The top presidential candidates have all employed the services of celebrities in their rallies and ad endorsements.

Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, Liberal Party standard-bearer, counts Vilma Santos, Kris Aquino, Ruy Rivarda, Sharon Cuneta, Ai-Ai de las Alas, Dingdong Dantes, Mark de Guzman, Eggy Arias, Regine Velasquez, Aiza Seguerra, Sam Milby, Jed Madela and Gretchen Barretto as his supporters.

The stalwarts of Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II, the Nacionalista Party standard-bearer, include Judging Sarah Cruz, Ms. Pinky Webb, Ms. Korina Sanchez, Mon Tulfo, Pampanga Governor Lilia Pineda and Pahiyas Queen Jean Garcia.

Former Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro of the administration's Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition has the backing of the band Rivermaya, while Sen. Gloria Villanueva of Bangon Pilipinas has Dina-9, Gary Valenciano and his family.

Former President Joseph Estrada, himself a former actor, has Lorna Tolentino, Ailia Melendez and Eddie Garcia as his endorsers.

# Surprise! Lapid real winner in Pampanga

From page A1

print, on the second night of the provincial canvassing of votes in 2007.

Paul Tristan Lane, Lapid's campaigner in the 2007 election, said his friend had "not given the issue a thought."

Lapid is not running for governor this May. He father, also an actor-turned-politician, backed out of the gubernatorial race, opting to seek reelection.

That left Datdilo of the Liberal Party and Pineda of Lakas-Kampi-CMD in a rematch. The third candidate, Rizaldo Dumpit, is an independent.

### Hundred count

The Comelec recount has prompted questions from Datdilo and Pineda.

Datdilo wanted the Comelec to explain how he lost the 80,000 votes from his 2007 tally.

The numbers in the recount were also confusing when the tally was reviewed against those of the National Citizen's Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) in Pampanga.

The Namfrel report on the 2007 polls showed that the province had 1,231,868 registered voters, lower than the Comelec's record of 1,238,913 voters.

In its tabulation in 1,686 (98.80 percent) of 5,071 precincts, Datdilo and those who actually voted totaled 762,668. The Comelec count of actual voters, however, was 779,190.

The Namfrel report showed that Datdilo garnered 336,571 votes; Pineda, 324,788; and Lapid, 206,709.

A hundred staff member wondered why the votes in the recount were lower.

"Shouldn't the numbers for Datdilo go up since she said that votes with her nickname, 'Nanay Baby' were not counted before? The count is over but the votes are lacking?" said the staff, who asked not to be named for fear of antipathy in speak on the issue.

### Motion of execution

Pineda's lawyer, George Erwin Garcia, filed a motion for execution after the results of the recount were announced.

Datdilo's lawyer, Blas Ople, sought a motion for reconsideration. He said more than 4,000 ballots written with "Nonong" or "NJ" have not been counted in Pineda's favor.

During a protest rally on Wednesday, about 1,000 Datdilo supporters, led by Pampanga Governor Lilia Pineda, marched to the provincial capitol to protest the alleged "manipulation" of votes in favor of Pineda.

Governor Pineda's spokesperson, "It is doing it did not respect the facts. In fact, it has combined the truth," Manlulu said.

With a report from Cherylene Cayabyab, Inquirer Central Luzon

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Aplus METRO
Editor Alexander S. Ulanday

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# Cops rescue 83-year-old kidnap victim

## 4 gang members arrested, face raps

By Nancy C. Carvajal

MORE THAN AN HOUR AFTER SHE WAS REPORTED kidnapped yesterday, an 83-year-old woman was rescued by the police after her captors took her back to her house in Quezon City to loot it.

Chief Insp. Benjamin Ilemanes of the Quezon City Police District's homicide investigations section said they also arrested Leslie Manuel(sic) Abdan, 36.

He identified them as Myra Illan, 39; Arlene Cano, 46; Marlon Llano, 38, and Rafael Abdan, 58.

Charges of abduction with robbery will be filed against them, he added.

According to Ilemanes, the group usually preys on nouveau-paired elderly and rich-looking women.

Manuelan told the lawyers that she left her house yesterday morning to buy fruits from a vendor in Antipolo.

She said that at around 11:30 a.m., she was on her way home when two women approached her and offered to bring her home because I was alone and walking slowly."

Manuelan added that she accepted the women's offer and got into their van—a gray Hyundai with plate number XHT 420—which was parked on Mabilis Street, Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City.

A neighbor, however, saw her getting into the vehicle and reported the incident to the victim's children who lived just a few blocks away.

Alarmed, her children called the police which promptly sent several patrol cars to look for the van.

More than an hour later, the kidnappers' van drove in front of the victim's house and into the arms of the police.

Manuelan said that after she got into the van, the women who had talked to her, along with another woman and Abdan who was driving the van, started asking her about the jewelry and money she kept in her house.

This went on for about an hour, she said, while Abdan drove around with no apparent destination in mind.

Manuelan added that her captors also divested her of the jewelry she was wearing.

Later on, they told her that they were taking her back to her house.

"They said they would let me go but I have to get all my jewelry and place it in a plastic bag and no one should know about it," she said.

The victim added that although she was not harmed by her captors, the experience shook her.

She said that the group even had the gall, after their arrest, to offer her ₱100,000 in exchange for her telling the police that they did not kidnap her.

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## DPWH to close portions of Edsa this weekend

By Miko Morales

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday announced that parts of the northbound lane of Edsa would be closed to traffic tonight until Monday morning.

Motorists should avoid the section in front of Gate 4 of Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City up to the Santolan station of the Metro Rail Transit, Noynoy Recio of the MMDA Traffic Engineering Center said.

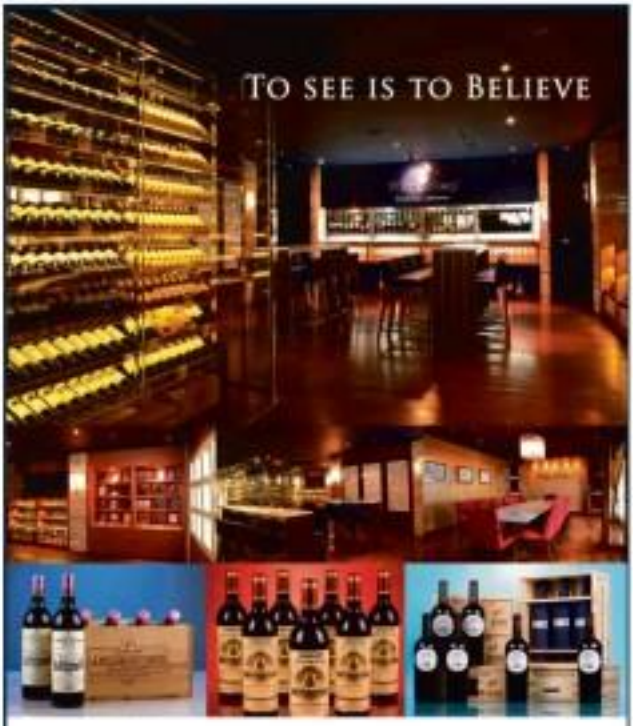
They should also avoid the section near Mega (formerly Sugar Q-Mart in Kamuning, Quezon City.

Although only one lane each in the affected portions will be closed to vehicles, Recio advised motorists to find alternate routes to avoid being caught in heavy traffic.

For the past weeks, the Department of Public Works and Highways has been shutting down certain parts of the northbound lane of Edsa every weekend for concrete repatching.

The rehabilitation work is expected to take from nine to 10 weekends and will continue until the month of April.

The affected lanes will be closed starting at 10 p.m. on Friday until 4 a.m. on Monday to give the owners time to harden.



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**A FIND OF THE EXPLOSIVE KIND**

Explosives experts Kevin Cuddeihean from Australia stores an unexploded World War II Japanese bomb, one of several found in one of the archaeological diggings at the Aparecidanos in Intramuros, Manila. He said he expects to find more of these bombs in the area.

AFP/JAM SAN

# Makati City council battle rages with new DILG memo

By Mike Morales

THE BATTLE ICEBOXES.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government has restrained Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado and ousted majority leader Jejomar Erwin "Junjun" Binay from invoking an earlier opinion it issued because of a pending case questioning the legality of the city council reorganization last month.

Considering the pendency of the said case and if not to preempt the court's judicious evaluation of the merits of the case, this department thus advises all concerned to refrain from using the guidance set forth in the subject opinion," read the letter signed by Undersecretary Ronaldo Puno.

The official noted that councilors allied with Binay went to him on Tuesday saying that a Makati court was hearing a case the camp filed against Mercado.

"Which all my highest respect for the DILG, I am saddened by the flip-flopping opinions from two different offices of the agency in just a span of two days," said Mercado, quoting the vice mayor.

"It is still up to the court to decide if it would be issuing an injunction or a preliminary mandatory injunction," the vice mayor added.

The Cruz letter stemmed from a DILG opinion where Mercado sought the agency's view on the reorganization he allege implemented in January.

The three-page letter signed by Undersecretary Eduardo Ballesteros Jr. on Monday upheld Mercado's right to cast a tie-breaking vote in cases when the city council is in a deadlock. The issue is the subject of a civil case filed by the Binay camp questioning the legality of the vice mayor's move on presiding officer of the city council.

In January Mercado's allies sought a reorganization in the city council and limited the changes to two posts held by Binay—the chairs of the committees on rules and ethics—only. When the motion came to a vote, the result was a tie, prompting Mercado's ouster in favor of the reorganization.

Binay questioned the legality of Mercado's vote in the council, arguing that the vice mayor, as presiding officer, is not an organic member of the body.

Mercado and his allies in the city council scrapped Binay of his majority leader post last week in the latest development that has embroiled the body since the long-time allies parted ways in September last year.

The vice mayor is running against Junjun Binay for mayor.

# Manila gov't opens one-stop shop business center to attract investors

By Tina G. Santos

GOOD NEWS FOR PEOPLE who intend to open a business in Manila.

The city government wants day-operation a one-stop shop business center that aims to reduce the processing time for application from the Business Registration and permits to only 33 minutes.

The Manila City Business Center (MCBC), which is located at the ground floor of the Manila City Hall, was inaugurated yesterday. It was funded by a grant from the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Australian Agency for International Development.

The new business center, which was also established with the help of the Asian's School of Government and Canadian International Development Authority, is expected to improve business registration transactions by 30 percent, city officials said.

"The idea of putting up MCBC is also in anticipation of the global economic recovery that is expected this year since we hope to attract foreign investments to the city," Mayor Alfredo Lim said.

He added that major reforms in business processes were supported to encourage more small and medium-scale enterprises to flourish in the city.

With the old method, applicants used to follow a 17-step procedure, interact with at least 38 city employees and wait for almost two months to register or secure their business permits.

"But we are changing all that with MCBC where we put all the vital offices that you used to transact with in one comfortable room," Lim said.

"With the new system, registration is within 15 minutes, while securing permits is within 24 hours. We have lessened only a two-step process...file and pay and you have to deal now with only three people...the information or assistance desk, the desk and the cashier," the mayor added.

"The MCBC and its simplified business registration process is the city's focus toward a more friendly, fast and efficient way of doing business. This will cater to all business commitments of the city, whether big or small like those ranging from the small vending stores to big companies," Lim said.

Among those who attended the center's inauguration were members of the Filipino-Chinese business communities who lauded the local government's move as a serious effort to improve business climate in the city.

Businessmen and investors will expect the income-opportunities and lands services for the city's poor. IFC is happy to have worked with the city government to make these significant improvements," said Jesus Ang, IFC country manager.

Lim added that the process reforms were the result of months of study, hard work and collaboration by the city government's personnel from various departments who were trained by the Asian's School of Government.

**CLEARING OPERATIONS**
Firefighters clear an area in Buena Compound, Manila, where several homes were destroyed in a fire on Thursday morning. No one was reported injured or killed. Ben Cervantes

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# Man gets life sentence for strangling wife

By Julie M. Aurelio

A CONSTRUCTION WORKER WILL spend the rest of his life behind bars after a Quezon City judge found him guilty of strangling his wife in their rented apartment in a church compound nearly seven years ago.

In a six-page decision, Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 76 Judge Alexander Zalsos convicted laborer Randy Delantar of the charge of parricide and sentenced him to suffer life imprisonment.

Delantar was accused of killing his wife, Evelyn, in a construction site at Christ the King compound in Barangay Libis on Aug. 5, 2003.

Court records showed that he allegedly strangled his wife with a shirt before they fought over his gambling habit.

The judge said the prosecution was able to prove that Delantar was guilty beyond reasonable doubt of the crime of parricide even though there was no direct evidence presented during trial.

He added that there were four circumstances which pointed to the accused's guilt.

According to him, Delantar and his wife were seen together at the compound on the day of the killing. A neighbor had testified that he had overheard them arguing.

Jose Sola, a barangay, said he discovered the victim's body the following day. He added that Delantar did not report her death that day and could not be found anywhere.

Another witness, Lawrence Mosquera, claimed that he heard the couple having a heated argument over Delantar's gambling habit. He added that this was followed by a thud and the sound of a woman gasping for breath.

Delantar later surrendered to the police after he learned that he was the subject of an investigation.

In his defense, he said he was to Taclac when his wife was strangled.

The court, however, pointed out that Delantar's co-workers claimed to have seen him on the night his wife killed, contrary to his statement that he was already in Taclac at that time.

"Other than his mere self-assertion, no other proof was offered in support of such alibi that he was somewhere else at the time of the commission of the offense," the judge said.

# Navotas City curfew for minors nets 1,881 violators

By Beverly T. Ramirez

MORE THAN 1,000 VIOLATORS OF a long-standing city ordinance imposing a curfew on minors from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. have been arrested by the Navotas Police Station for a one-year period.

The latest report by the City Social Welfare and Development Office in Navotas Mayor John Rey Tiangco showed that 1,881 minors were caught from January to Dec. 31, 2009.

Of the 1,881 apprehensions, 1,215 were male while 666 were female. Some 99 of the 1,881 arrested were also discovered to be second-time offenders.

The ordinance, in place since 2002, was intended to curb street crimes and prevent the youth's involvement in criminal activities that often happen in the wee hours of the morning.

Violators are temporarily detained in a special holding area in barangay halls and are released to their parents after delivering a lecture to guardians per a P500 fine for their release or else they are required to engage in community service.

Tiangco said he ordered barangay officials to continuously inform constituents about the curfew and to apprehend violators until the numbers dwindle.

## MetroBriefs

### Man shot, wounded over joke

A MOTORY worker was wounded after his brother-in-law allegedly shot him for making a joke. Christopher de Guzman, 26, was hit once in the chest and taken for treatment to the Pasay City General Hospital on Wednesday night in Pasay City. Investigator PO3 Ronaldo David said that earlier that night, Ed Seoman was standing in front of his house on St. Jude Street in Barangay Pasay City, when his brother-in-law, Mardy Boy Ortega, arrived. Lamenting without any reason, Seoman. The victim said Ed Seoman reacted quickly at which Ortega took offense. Ortega then fired at the victim and escaped.

Mike Morales

### Security guard stabbed dead in front of bank

A SECURITY guard was stabbed dead in front of the bank where he worked in dawn yesterday. The body of Rodolfo Solano, 30, a security guard of the Philippine National Bank (PNB) branch on Honorio Lopez Boulevard in Barangay 649, was found at around 11 a.m. It bore two stab wounds in the chest and another one in the back. PO2 Lenin Gonzales Jr. of the Manila Police District homicide section said the body was found by two drivers and Rafael who told the police they've had earlier asked Solano if he could park his cab in front of the bank. The victim agreed and Rafael said that when he returned to the area to get his taxi cab, he found the guard lying on the sidewalk in front of the bank.

Jeanette C. Aguisanda

### Taytay market to get wastewater treatment facility

THE TAYTAY public market will soon have its own wastewater treatment facility to ensure that its water discharge are free of pollutants. Construction of the P12-million project, which will be funded by Manila Water Company Inc. (MWCI), is targeted to be finished at the end of the year. In a statement yesterday, Taytay Mayor Joric Sumulong said the MWCI effort was a welcome environmentalist project for the municipality. He said many local industries were in need of their own wastewater treatment facilities to ensure cleaner discharges in local bodies of water. Industries or manufacturing plants, as well as facilities that may be a source of water pollution like public markets and slaughterhouses, are required by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to put up wastewater treatment facilities in order to maintain their effluent quality within standards set by the agency.

Beverly T. Ramirez

### BIR tax audit seminar to be held on Feb. 24

A SEMINAR on "Winning Your BIR Tax Audit" will be held on Feb. 24, at 1 p.m. at the Richville Hotel at 2286 Taft Ave. Mandaluyong City. Resource speaker is lawyer Jose Mario C. Bustos, a tax expert and former BIR commissioner. A resume CD filled with the information is included in the seminar kit. Participants may register by calling Trisan Knowledge Center Philippines at 331-1626, 331-1636, 374-2288/91 and 374-2290/93 or by sending an e-mail to MillionDollarMail.net or Tess_jb@yahoo.com.

# Israel: No proof Mossad carried out Dubai hit

IMAGE made from passport photos shows eleven suspects wanted in connection with the killing of Hamas commander Mahmoud al-Mabhouh, according to Dubai's Police Chief.

JERUSALEM—ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER on Wednesday said that the use of the identities of foreign-born Israelis by a hit squad suspected of killing a Hamas militant in Dubai did not prove the Mossad spy agency assassinated him.

Britain summoned the Israeli ambassador to a meeting on Thursday to explain how several British citizens living in Israel found their passports details used by the alleged killers.

"There is no reason to think that it was the Israeli Mossad and not some other intelligence service or country up to some mischief," Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman told Army Radio when asked about the operation and alleged passport misbehavior.

But Lieberman did not deny outright Israeli involvement in the killing of Hamas's Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in a Dubai hotel last month, saying Israel has a "policy of ambiguity" on intelligence matters and there was no proof it was behind the assassination.

Most suicide bomber attacks in Israel and the 11 rockets whose European passport photos were distributed by Dubai live in Israel, and those matched by reporters indeed were identities had been stolen and turned the pictures were not a match.

Six of the men are Britons who immigrated to Israel. The seventh is an Australian Israeli, whose name Dubai said was on a German passport used by one of the assassins.

The British Foreign Office said the country's Serious Organized Crime Agency would lead an investigation in close cooperation with the Israeli authorities. It said Britain would also provide support in its nationals "who have been affected by this fraudulent activity." Some Israeli commentators on intelligence matters suggested the Mossad may have blundered—if it worked out the attack and had hoped to keep its involvement secret—by using the identities of people who could be traced back to Israel.

The Palestinian militant group Hamas has blamed Israel for the assassination and Dubai police have said they could not rule out Israeli involvement.

At a memorial rally in Gaza for Mabhouh on Wednesday, officials from the Islamist group, including masked, armed militants said that Hamas's Izz-el Deen al-Qassam armed wing "will never rest until they reach

# Churchill demanded UFO briefing

LONDON—SCORES OF UFO sightings by farmers, including one who developed a skin condition after a supernatural encounter, emerged in files out on Thursday which also show Winston Churchill's interest in the issue.

The papers amassed of the newly declassified Ministry of Defence files tells how a man in Wales Vale, south Wales, claimed his car was surrounded for five minutes by a "tube of light" in 1997.

The man, who reported the incident to police, was sick the next day and also developed a mysterious skin condition.

"First sighting seemed like a massive star moving toward the car," the previously top secret police report said.

"Hearing stopped the car and switched the lights off, the lights encircled the car, remaining for perhaps five minutes.

"[The man] was able to walk through the light which was very bright. There was no sound, no aircraft or helicopter noise, and because feeling ill [he] was very frightened." The newly released files span 6,000 pages and cover the period 1990 to 2000.

They were released alongside another file dating back to 1952 which showed then British prime minister Winston Churchill requesting a briefing on UFOs from his secretary of state he sit.

"What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to? What's it about? What is the truth? Let me have a report at your convenience," he wrote.

In the reply, Churchill was told that alleged UFO sightings could be explained by earthly phenomena such as optical illusions, mistaken identifications of planets, birds and balloons and deliberate hoaxes.

The more severe files detailed reports of other UFO sightings.

A policeman said he saw one flying over Chelsea Football Club's Stamford Bridge ground in south-west London in 1999, while a man in Sheringham, central England, saw a blue triangle hovering over his garden in June 1996 and in 1997.

That alleged alien craft flew off quickly leaving behind a "silky-white" substance on nearby hedgerows which the man collected in a jam jar.

Dan Giffin, David Clarke of Sheffield Hallam University in northern England, said the latest papers showed how the shape of interest flying saucers had changed in recent decades.

This could be linked to sci-fi television shows and films like "The X-Files" and "Independence Day," he said.

"One interpretation could be that the latest advances in technology may be influencing what people see in the sky," he said. AFP

HOWARD Carter, the archaeologist who discovered King Tutankhamun's tomb, examining the ruler's sarcophagus in an undated photo.

# King Tut died of malaria, had club foot, DNA shows

CAIRO—DNA TESTING HAS unraveled some of the mysteries surrounding the birth and death of pharaoh king Tutankhamun, revealing his father was a brutal monotheistic king, and ruling out Nefertiti as his mother, Egypt's antiquities chief said on Wednesday.

Zahi Hawass announced the results of the study involving DNA tests and computerized tomography (CT) scans on Tutankhamun's mummy at a packed media conference in the Egyptian Museum.

The testing showed he died of malaria after suffering a fall, putting to rest the theory that the enigmatic boy-king was murdered. He was also shown to have suffered from a club foot and used a cane as a walking aid.

Hawass said other severed as an injury to the back of Tutankhamun's skull, which some had taken as evidence that he was murdered, was in fact a hole made by embalmers.

"We found evidence from DNA that proves he had very severe malaria," Hawass said.

"He was ill, weak, walked on a cane. When he was 10, and got malaria, he fell, how we don't know, maybe he fell in the bathroom," he said.

"When he fell, and was weak from malaria, he died." Meanwhile, Tutankhamun seems to have sired two children who were still born. The testing showed that two mummified fetuses found in his tomb were his issue, probably with his wife Ankhesenamun.

While Tutankhamun's death at about 18, after 10 years of rule between 1333 to 1324 BC, has been a source of much speculation, the circumstances of his birth were not seen clearer.

Researchers from Egypt used DNA testing to draw a family tree for Tutankhamun, and their results were reviewed by German scientists.

The researchers, led by Hawass, analyzed DNA taken from 11 mummies, including the boy king himself.

It showed his father was almost certainly King Akhenaten, who ruled between 1351 and 1334 BC and who tried to impose monotheistic worship.

The antiquities chief added that researchers were able to determine that the previously unidentified mummy found in Tomb 55 in the Valley of Kings belonged to Akhenaten. Yet another mummy was identified as Queen Tiye.

Another, previously unidentified mummy, was confirmed as Tutankhamun's mother, whose name is not known. That discovery has to end the theory that Tutankhamun was the son of Queen Nefertiti.

The mummy known as the "Younger Lady," was discovered in 1898 by a French archaeologist in the Valley of the Kings. AFP

## WORLDBRIEFS

### Amnesty condemns caning 'epidemic' in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR—Amnesty International on Wednesday urged Malaysia to end a caning "epidemic," saying that authorities have meted out the punishment to thousands. It does in addition to the country's prison sentences. Amnesty said in its Briefing said Wednesday that they had saved from women for having extramarital sex in violation of Islamic law, a first in the Muslim-majority country. But the rights International said the case was the "just the tip of the iceberg" and that Malaysia often cared over its caning offenses. Citing Malaysian authorities, the London-based human rights group said authorities caned more than 30,000 people—mostly non-Malaysians—for immigration violations since 2002. AFP

### Mentally ill man breaches Biden Games security

VANCOUVER—A mentally ill man carrying a homemade security pass got within meters of US Vice President Joe Biden at the Winter Olympics opening ceremony, police in Wednesday said.

The 46-year-old stopped past the huge security operation at BC Place, the venue for Friday's ceremony, and was confronted by Mounties on board the 2010 Integrated Security Unit (ISU), told Canada's broadcaster CTV. "He had an interaction with the US Vice President," said Mounties Sgt. Gilles Moreau added that this man, who was carrying a homemade all-access pass, was not carrying a weapon and had not intended to harm Biden. AFP

### Judge in Anwar case refuses to stand down

KUALA LUMPUR—The judge hearing Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's sodomy trial refused to step down on Wednesday in the case, rejecting the defense argument that he was biased. The trial, which Anwar says is a political conspiracy engineered by the prime minister and his wife, was suspended until March 23 while his lawyers appeal the judge's decision. "I don't see any reason to recuse myself from this case. If I do this I will be running away from my duty as a judge," judge Mohamad Zabidin Mohd told the court. Mohamad Zabidin said no "reasonable person" would infer he was biased based on the defense's argument that he had failed to allow earlier media coverage of the trial which began last month. AFP

### Qantas axes first class seats as profit drops 72 percent

SYDNEY—Australia's Qantas Airways on Thursday said it was axing first class from all but a handful of routes in a post-financial crisis overhaul, as half-year profit plunged 72 percent to US$52 million. Chief executive Alan Joyce said passengers would only be able to fly first class between Australia and London, via Singapore, and between Australia and Los Angeles after demand dropped dramatically in the wake of the downturn. AFP

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# The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

# Haiti judge frees 8 US missionaries

MIAMI—EIGHT AMERICAN MISSIONARIES freed by a Haitian judge landed in Miami early Thursday, nearly three weeks after the group was charged with kidnapping for trying to take 33 children out of the quake-stricken country.

Lt. Ironnick Schitz with the United States Southern Command said a US Airforce C-130 cargo plane carrying the Americans landed just after midnight at Miami International Airport.

The group still hadn't emerged from customs as of early Thursday.

The group's tardy departure from Haiti began a day earlier when Judge Bernard Saint-Vil said eight of the 10 missionaries were free to leave without bail because paperwork of the children had verified they voluntarily gave their children to the missionaries believing the Americans would give them a better life.

"The parents gave their kids away voluntarily," Saint-Vil said in explaining his decision.

He said, however, that he still wanted to question the group's leader, Laura Silsby, and her former nanny, Charisa Coulter, because they had visited Haiti prior to the quake to inquire about obtaining orphans.

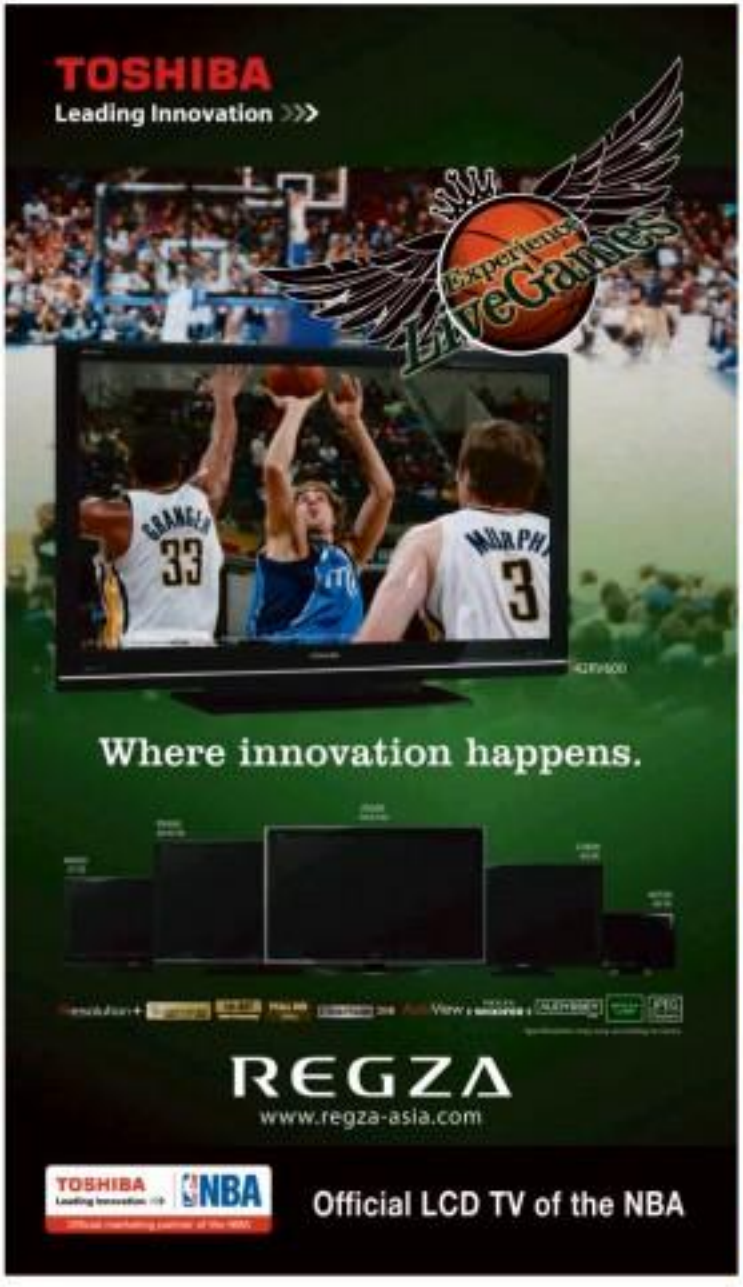
Hours later, just after dusk, the bedraggled, sweat-stained group of eight walked out of the Haitian jail escorted by US diplomats. They smiled until they were safely inside a white embassy van before some flashed smiles and gave a thumbs up to reporters. Their plane took off from Port-au-Prince shortly thereafter as a group of reporters watched.

Idan Thompson, 19, of Twin Falls, Idaho, plopped into the back seat, breathing heavily and beaming with relief. He'd accompanied his father Paul, a pastor, on the mission not knowing that Silsby had not obtained the proper papers, until his US-based lawyer, Czech Brogdi.

The missionaries were charged with child kidnapping for trying to take 33 Haitian children to the Dominican Republic on Jan. 29 without Haitian adoption certificates.

Their detentions came just as aid officials were urging a halt to short-cut adoptions in the wake of the earthquake and, before their release, Haiti's No. 2 justice official, Claudy Gassant, informed them of the judge's decision, but said he also gave them a lecture.

"They know they broke the law," he said. AP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**WHAT'S INSIDE**

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# SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Molavedra
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

■ **Red-hot** Salvador strikes again, tops ICTSI Classic /A32

# Key SMB-P'foods Game 5 tonight

## Tired Tender Juicy Giants hope to ride momentum vs tough Beermen

By Cedrik P. Tupas

AFTER GETTING HIS EAR GRADE OF stitches and nines in their hem-of-nerves sacrificial series against San Miguel, Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio shouldn't be fun figured out a way to overcome the fatigue factor that has bothered the Tender Juicy Giants in the ongoing EFC PBA Philippine Cup.

"I think I know what to do," Gregorio said, after the Giants tied the series a second time with a 97-84 victory in Game 4 Wednesday night.

"At this point, I think we should spend more time in the video room. It's better not to practice on the road. We're at a point where rest is as important as work in some we really strong for Game 5."

San Miguel took the first game, 99-81, before Purefoods bounced back successfully with a 103-94 blowout in Game 2. The Beermen then prevailed in Game 3, 88-76, only to see the Giants bounce back to reclaim the deadlock at best-of-three affair.

Their fifth meeting is set at 7 p.m. with both the Beermen and the Tender Juicy Giants knowing the importance of pulling through in Game 5.

League records showed that 27 of the last 37 squads that took a 3-2 lead from 2-2 went on to win the series, including the last eight times.

The winner of the San Miguel-Purefoods series will meet Alaska in the best-of-seven championship series.

The Aces bagged the first finals slot with a 4-3 sweep of Barangay Ginebra, becoming just the fourth team in league history to pull off the feat.

"It's been a long conference but we're not complaining," said Gregorio, whose Giants needed a Game 5 before ousting the Rain or Shine Elasto Painters in the quarterfinals. "We want to stay alive. We want to keep playing."

He added: "I feel like we have a legitimate coach because all the way out we have playing."

San Miguel coach Siot Tanquingcen hopes the Beermen will rediscover their defensive stock that has keyed their two series wins.

"Our priority is to get back at what we do best, which is knocking down some defensive," said Tanquingcen. "We also need to crash the ball better. We took many hurried shots in Game 4."

GREGORIO: 'We've found a way to win.'

TANQUINGCEN: Defense crucial for us.

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# So keeps top junior award in Russia

Final standings:
1. Ji Seung Hwi (Korea) 63 – 4 Ryo Ishikawa (Japan) 2 – 5 Anthony Kim (USA) 3 – 6 Jason Day (Aust.) 5 – 7 Jason Bohn (USA) 4 – 8 Bubba Watson (USA) 3 – 9 Angel Cabrera (Argentina) 4 – 10 Ernie Els (South Africa) 4 – 11 Hunter Mahan (USA) 4 – 12 Phil Mickelson (USA) 4 – 13 Matt Kuchar (USA) 4 – 14 Graeme McDowell (Northern Ireland) 4 – 15 Rickie Fowler (USA) 4 – 16 Martin Kaymer (Germany) 4 – 17 Sergio Garcia (Spain) 4 – 18 Lee Westwood (England) 4 – 19 Justin Rose (England) 4 – 20 Keegan Bradley (USA) 4 – 21 Charl Schwartzel (South Africa) 4 – 22 Dustin Johnson (USA) 4 – 23 Louis Oosthuizen (South Africa) 4 – 24 Adam Scott (Australia) 4 – 25 Tiger Woods (USA) 4

FILIPINO SENSATION WESLEY SO notched his a fourth straight down and retained the top junior award in the 2010 novelist Open three champs. onships at the Hotel Cascona Delta in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday.

Handling black, the 16-year-old Grandmaster agreed to a draw with Venezuelan GM Eduardo Iturrizaga after only 10 moves of the Queen's Gambit Accepted and finished in a tie for seventh to 10th players with 5.5 points in the 10-player field.

After the forfeit, he leaded 11th—a big jump from his last year's nine where he finished in a tie for 19th to 20th places.

On the strength of his 2 wins, 5 draws, 1 loss stats, he will bring home the top junior trophy and 2,000 euro (about P116,8000 pesos) given to the highest-placed player 18 years old and below for the second year in a row.

# Dancesports inserted in Palaro sked

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DANCESPORTS WILL BE INTRODUCED as a demonstration sport when Tarlac City hosts the Palarong Pambansa for the first time on April 11 to 17 at the newly built Tarlac Provincial Park.

Tarlac Gov. Victor Yap said most of the venues should be ready for the meet featuring about 12,000 elementary and high school students from public schools.

Events on tap are athletics, swimming, tennis, football, basketball and volleyball which will be held at the Park.

Basketball, boxing, chess, gymnastics, aquatics, badminton, softball, table tennis, taekwondo, volleyball and archery are set to resume around the city, and in the towns of Concepcion, Tarlac and Camiling.

"We're happy and proud to host the Palaro and we would make sure all the people coming here would feel the hospitableness of every people in Tarlac City," said Yap during yesterday's inauguration of the venues.

# Unforgiving Patriots just a win away

## Take 2-0 lead over Satria Muda

By Jasmine W. Payo

COACH LOUIE ALAS CHALLENGED HIS TEAM TO ALL WERE TO PLAY BETTER defense. And the Philippine Patriots did not disappoint him.

The Patriots held Indonesia to just a couple of layups in a six-minute stretch in the final period before pulling away to a 72-51 blowout victory Wednesday night that pushed them within a win of capturing the inaugural Asean Basketball League championship.

Satria Muda was limited to a measly four point production behind the defensive effort put up by guard Christian Gerard, Nonoy Baclao and reserve Gabe Freeman and Jason Deiser as the Patriots easily took Game 2 of the best-of-five series at the HERI Flying V Arena in San Juan.

"Defensively, it was a job well done," said Alas.

Freeman again proved dominant with 13 points and 14 rebounds, five

PATRIOTS import Jason Deiser drives a foot as he attacks the basket off Satria Muda's Nonoy Baclao in and Matias Miller in Wednesday night's Game 2.

also after stealing with a league-high 39 numbers to the Patriots' 79-68 Game 1 triumph.

Rob Wainwright also stepped up when Freeman got intensely foul troubles in the first half to finish with 16 points, 12 coming from three-point range.

"We played good and we hustled a lot, that's what won the game for us," said the 6-foot-9 Freeman, the 2009 PBA first import.

Deiser also registered his 15th double-double in 16 games with 11 points and 12 boards.

The Patriots will shoot for a sweep in Game 3 this Sunday at The Bandana Arena in Jakarta.

Satria Muda trimmed the Patriots' 15-point halftime lead, 41-26, as late as 7:1-40, early in the fourth quarter behind Indonesian forward Bonny Gunawan.

But the Patriots responded with a 18-2 spurt for a 63-46 spread as Satria Muda drew little help from imports Matias Miller and Alex Harmon.

"It's so hard to beat the Patriots if our imports play below par," said Indonesian coach Fictor Hadeng. "Our hosts played well but the import matchups decided the outcome."

Miller, who had a poor 5-of-23 shooting clip, finished up with Harmon for 23 points after averaging a combined 36 in the two previous.

**The scores:**

**PHILIPPINES** 72—Freeman 25, Wainwright 16, Deiser 11, Gerard 7, Baclao 4, Thabeet 3, Ingles 2, Ilagan 2, Belga 2, Abando 1.

**INDONESIA** 51—Gunawan 11, Hadinata 10, Miller 10, Harmon 13, Wibowo 3, Wijayanto 2, Lumbantoruan 2, Hidayat 1.

Quarters: 19-11, 41-26, 63-46, 72-51

PAL INTERCLUB

# Opening standoff for big guns Canlubang, Luisita

By Mayang B. Castillo

BACKLOG—HOTTEST AT ALL.

Canlubang and Luisita drained that thought yesterday as the three-championship division rivals opened with matching 120-point efforts at the start of the 63rd Philippine Airlines Interclub Season tournament here.

Tommy Manotoc amassed a 30-footer for hardie on his last hole to outrage the tie for Canlubang as he finished with 68 points, matching the top-scoring effort of huge Clarenville of Luisita.

Mart Hechanova and Bing Bonoy rounded for Canlubang with identical 62 points, while Luisita also drew a 44 from Carlo Gaudiano and either of the 40 points secured for by Pepot Bigay and Lino Dinggangui.

"Of course, everyone wants to be leading after the first day," Canlubang mainstay Luigi Tuio said. "For being tied for the lead is not bad at all. It's certainly a lot better than being 10 (strokes) down (like last year). Our first group did its job."

While Canlubang showed great form to its fair for a fifth straight crown, Luisita was happy to grab a piece of the lead after actually forging ahead based on the results of the first three matches of both squads.

"I think being tied for the lead is better than trailing by (10 strokes) like last year when we played with as much pressure after the first round," said Clarenville.

An overlooked Orchard squad, playing at the cooler Benito course in Manila town in the Founders Division, actually showed the way in the overall race with 136 behind the efforts of Gaetzel's ener-cycle pair of 70 points.

Ed Alexander contributed 41 and Chet Hidalgo one 38 for Orchard, which have a tough tee when it tackles Mamapaw today.

Eagle Ridge was second with 132 and Mahang third with 130.

"I told myself that I haven't done anything good today so that has got to go in," the 58-year-old Manotoc told scribes when asked what he felt after a rounded approach with a sand wedge from 70 yards left him with that long putt on No. 9.

Baron Hills was a far third in the Championship Division with 104 points after drawing 37 each from Jonathan Rodriguez and Gene Lim and a 30 from Arsenio Rodriguez.

Clarenville, who will see action for the second straight day today, is also no newcomer to the cut and scored the final pesetas for his department to close out for a spectacular six-under finish in the second round.

Tuio said he's playing today but added that the rest of the Day 2 lineup is still up in the air. He has Jose Hernandez, Holly Vivay and lucky veterans and team captain Ricky Oliver at his disposal, though.

Manotoc will play Sunday's final round at Mamapaw.

TWISTER PUTT: John Hay 's Chito Cabreros reacts on a missed part on hole No. 8 at Mamapaw.

**The Best Ball scores:**

**CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION** – Canlubang (A) 1 over 145: Tuio 68, Hechanova 68, Manotoc (a) Ingan 70, Tuio 72, Gil 78, Wilt Carlos 78, Alexander 78, Mahilo Gaudiano 44, Dinggangui 40.

**FIRST DIVISION** – Orchard 136: Alexander 41, Hidalgo 38, Gaetzel 70, Lopez 70, Cabrera 66, Ong 70, Mahang 130: Ramos 65, Mendoza 65, Ilagan 65, Ilagan 65, Ilagan

# US bets turn Games into wonderland

VANCOUVER—SHAUN WHITE, LINDSEY Vonn and Shani Davis all struck gold on Wednesday as the United States transformed a bleak Vancouver Olympics into their own winter wonderland with a dazzling show of gravity-defying stunts, brute strength and old-fashioned courage.

White showed why he is one of the most recognizable and highest paid athletes in winter sports as he turned a new generation of Olympic fans at Cypress Mountain with a breathtaking display of snowboarding virtuosity and skateboarder-like surfeed into the stratosphere. "The Flying Tomato" said the "Real Deal," it broken Vonn overcome a painful injury that almost ruined her Olympic dream before it began as she battled down a treacherous Whistler mountain course to become the first American to win the women's downhill, one of the most spectacular and dangerous events at the Olympics.

Not to be outdone, Davis powered home over the final lap at the Richmond Olympic Oval to become the first man to win the 1,000-meter speed skating title at successive Olympics as the US soared to the peak of the medal standings.

The three victories gave the US five gold medals after the fifth day of competition, ahead of Germany, South Korea and Switzerland, which each had three golds on a day when the heavy snow falls and thick fog that forced the postponement of some events finally gave way to clear blue skies. Reuters

THE HEAD of Nets' Vi Jordan gets covered by the ball after a dunk. —

# Newcomer lifts Mavs past Suns

## Jazz in sync, silence Hornets

DALLAS—DALLAS NEWCOMER CARON Butler started a key third-quarter run that led to the Dallas Mavericks' 107-97 win over the Phoenix Suns in Wednesday's clash of two NBA Western Conference contenders.

Butler, acquired from Washington in a seven-player deal Saturday, scored 15 points and hit a jumper to open a 16-4 run in the third.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 28 points for Dallas, which maintained a one-game lead in the Southwest Division.

Jason Terry added 20, matching Nowitzki in scores in recent days, had 10 points and 14 rebounds for the Suns, who had their three-game road winning streak snapped.

**Jazz 93, Hornets 90**

In New Orleans, Paul Millsap scored 24 points on 11 of 13 shooting as Utah downed New Orleans.

Carlos Boozer scored six of his 16 points in the last 2:46, and added 13 rebounds for the Jazz, who enjoy within one game of Northwest-leading Denver.

**Magic 116, Pistons 91**

In Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had a season-high 33 points and added 17 rebounds to help Orlando beat Detroit.

The reigning Defensive Player of the Year added seven blocks in a dominating performance. AP

NBA RESULTS: San Antonio 91, Indiana 87; Orlando 116, Detroit 91; Memphis 109, Toronto 107 (OT); Washington 108, Minnesota 86; Miami 87, New Jersey 86; Chicago 93, Houston 92; Boston 120, Milwaukee 86; Utah 93, New Orleans 90; Dallas 107, Phoenix 97; Golden State 110, Sacramento 88; Atlanta 110, Los Angeles 87 (update)

# McGowan sends Stricker packing home early

SAHARA, ARIZONA—TOP SEED STEVE Stricker was a surprise loser in the first round of the $6.5-million Accenture Match Play Championship on Wednesday when Britain's Ryan McGowan made a 22-foot par putt on the 19th hole.

It is only the second time the top seed has been eliminated on the first day of the World Golf Championships event, with Tiger Woods also losing in 2002.

Stricker took the one-up defeat at Dove Mountain in his stride, reminding reporters that there was an each thing as a summer upset in an 19-hole epilet.

"Like I said yesterday, it's kind of scary because you don't know who you're going to run into," he said. "You don't know how the guy is going to play and it leaves your hand in times.

Despite being the 64th seed, McGowan was not shocked to win.

"To hole a few putts, especially the one on 18, I could go all the way." "To go all the way he will have to beat exciting 18-year-old Ryo Ishikawa, the youngest player in the field.

Ishikawa won last year's Japan Tour money title, and he showed his class with a church finish to beat Australian Michael Sim two-up.

The eighth-seeded Padraig Harrington was also beaten on Wednesday, losing 3&1 by India's Jeev Milka Singh.

Defending champion Geoff Ogilvy of Australia, breezed through with a 7&5 win over Alexandre Rocha. Reuters

NOSS McGowan

# Calderon, Indonesian share KF3 honors

JETTE CALDERON AND INDONE-sian Yunior Sonza Dewata, both new to the KF3 rennik, shared top honors in the second Rickroff leg of the Pagcor KF3-KF4 Cup Series at the Carmonan Circuit Philippines to Cavite.

Calderon, Cebu's public who was Formula 20, Honor runner-up last year, outmaneuvered more experienced rivals Vrel Ali Ilaha and Frances Reyes to rule the first KF3 race in 11 minutes and 47.491 seconds. Soha nan 2.420 seconds slower while Reyes wound up a split second behind.

Calderon secured the lead on the 10th lap and posted the fastest lap time of 43.870 seconds on the 12th.

Dewata, who wound up fourth during the first race, dominated the 15-lap Race 2 from start to finish to relegate Calderon to second place.

Emiliano Rivera finished last in Race 1 but improved to third place in the next.

Sharing the spotlight was Ronan Tan who ruled the HQ Racing class over Alex Von Meer.

For full results and other details, call Carmona Circuit Philippines' Race Desk at 4172345.

George Lloarca, Core Reader

## SPORTSWATCH

### Big Pasay derby all set today

MUTYO MANILA'S DERBY TOP SUNS collide today at the "Blessing by Pasay" 2208 Super Big Event 8-Cock Derby at the Pasay City Cockpit.

Derby host and PCC CEO Patrick Antonio, derby chairman Big Event derby master in 2008, said the event's improved facilities will also be unveiled.

Today's one-or-two derby will feature champagnes, including Sony Ramos, Jojo Hernandez, Jun Tiguero, Danny Lim, Toto Lazatin, Family group, former Gov. Jo Inocian, Rodolfo Pineda of S.E. Zipit, Gino Hidalgo of Bulacan, Tony Legazpi, Dindo Bautista, Philip Magbilid, Erwin Ocampo, Ricardo Pinto, Tito Sevilla and Butchoy Claro.

### BL Agilawin cockfest set

SUMMER DERBY ENTRIES FOR THE "BL Agilawin" 3-cock derby will be held today at the San Juan Coliseum.

Participants have until 5 p.m. to present their entries when check-weighing between 1.2and 2.4 kilograms, said PCC pit manager Eric Valentino. Derby fee is P10,000.

Bibingka specialties Erwin de Roca, derby three champions Fiscal and Marina Real Estate, is hosting the event in partnership with the Agilawin group of Rizal.

At least 80 fights will be staged tomorrow.

By Tip Choice
At Santa Ana Park

## National Hobie race sails off in Nasugbu

FORMER WORLD CHAMPION Aaron Worrall of Australia leads a strong international cast vying for a crown in the Philippine National Hobie Championships which started yesterday at the Tali Beach and Club Punta Fuego in Nasugbu, Batangas.

But reigning two-time defending champion Jolito Jamil of the Philippines will also hold a competitive crew in the seven-day tournament joining the fun-loving sailors from Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, HK, Hong Kong and Korea.

"We have a pretty good chance of winning the gold," Rollie said in the PSA Forum Tuesday at Diablo's US Ac-

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## Tinga boxfest starts today

THE DANTE O. TINGA CUP INternational/International Amateur Boxing Team Championships will begin today at the Cotanda Sports Center in Bagumbayan, Taguig City.

The event featuring retired Senator Dante O. Tinga and supported by the City of Taguig and Lakas Tao Jr will see Filipino boxers.

The teams in the pinweight, light flyweight, flyweight, bantamweight and featherweight divisions represent each team.

Participating teams are Malaysia Dibindi of Gov. Omar Montes, Puerto Princesa of Mayor Edward Hagedorn and Kagayan/Negor Cavite, Bacolod of Mayor Gamoso, Tagbilaran of Mayor Dan Neil Lim, Mandaue of Tony Ardajani, Mandaluyong of Mayor Benhur Abalos, Bicutan and Taguig of Mayor Freddie Tinga.

The organizers provide free round-on-robins, board and lodging to all the participants. They hope to see exciting bouts and enjoy the fin-data accession of the Cotanda Sports Center.

"This is my family's humble way of providing opportunities to our good amateur boxers who would, almost always, come from the lower privileged sector of our society," said sportswoman Eulgardo "Boy" Cotanda.

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# Red-hot Salvador strikes again, tops ICTSI-Malarayat

LIPA CITY—MARIE DIONSON, 19, AMING the form of a new-certified mag after a stirring one-under-par 71 yesterday to rule the ICTSI Classic by two strokes over Joy Empron at the composite Mount Malarayat layout.

Salvador clinched a long birdie putt on the 17th hole to pull away from Empron for good and prove that his Philippine Open victory last December on the same rolling complex was no fluke.

The 40-year-old Isla Diocese from Davao finished with an 8-under 208 to earn P680,000 in this second leg of the unpended 12-stop circuit.

Bayona, who started the day tied for the lead with Salvador and Perlie Asuncion, stumbled with a triple bogey 7 on No. 11 that marred his closing 73. He settled for the second solo church for 19 20,000.

Asuncion faded to a 75 and opened the way for the rallying Jun Bonilo to grab third place at 211 with a 72.

After a bogey on No. 9 that cost him the lead, Bonilo double-bogeyed the 16th. He eventually finished fourth at 212, in a tie with club bet Orlan Bernard (73).

Asuncio and Bayona took turns at the front before self-destructing, although Salvador did not forge ahead to stay until his 15-foot birdie on the 17th.

"I just stayed focused," Salvador said.

In winning the Philippine Open, Salvador opened his round with a course record 9-under 63 on the Mount Makulot and Lobo nines of the 27-hole complex.

The Mount Malipunos and Lobo nines were used this time with Anis Pagsanjan setting the new mark of 64 in the second round after a horrendous 84 a day earlier.

After the new 2D-days ending, Pagsanjan dossed down with a 71 and secured up 19th at 219 with Randy Garrido (71).

Mark Fernando fired a 70 and shared low amateur honors with ICTSI Gaugil superstar Bernard Mesha (74-215).

Michael Dillao shot a 71 and finished in joint sixth with Bergie Magato (74) at 213 while Tony Lascuña (73), Tey Pagsanjan (73), Marvin Dumandan (73) and Mard Perez (74) shared eighth at 214.

Franklin Milleza matched par 72 and finished in joint 23rd with Gerlon Cano (76), Dinor Tiongco (79) and Hamil Hassen (77).

Manuel P. Carrillo


Experience Live Game with Toshiba REGZA LCD TV

**Official Marketing Partner of the NBA**

Toshiba Corporation and the National Basketball Association (NBA) announced a new marketing partnership in the Philippines. The alliance between the two leading names in entertainment brands, spotlighting the state-of-the-art innovative products of Toshiba and the top notch games of the NBA, will definitely bring the excitement to fans throughout the NBA season.

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**Toshiba REGZA LCD TV**

Toshiba REGZA LCD TV has a full range of LCD TV starting from a bedroom friendly 19-inch to a gigantic 55 inch screens, provide a good combination of high-end Full HD and basic models. All models are powered by Mota Boost engine. Toshiba proprietary technology. Mota Boost Premium and Mota Boost Pro engines featuring 14-bit and 12-bit video processing, respectively are capable of handling huge volume of data which produce ultra-high quality pictures.

The flagship LCD series, ZX900, is built for performance. On top of the core technologies of Mota Boost Premium, ZX900 series is equipped with other advance video and audio technologies such as Resolution+, ClearMotion 200, Autoview, Autospec 4D and REGZA Wooter. The high-resolution and 200Hz smooth picture room as the live games to your eyes within the most realistic audio range this stadium atmosphere to your ears.

**Key technologies**

✦ Mota Boost Premium

The new Mota Boost Premium backed by a 14-bit video processing technology and Mega Square Algorithm which enhances graphics in 10,384 steps, creates ultra smooth gradation and more true-to-life quality pictures.

✦ Resolution+

Resolution+ elevates standard definition images to near high definition quality. It first upscales the image then down-scales to compare the fall, shapes and then removes the differences. Resolution+ also analyzes and refines the picture to improve the rendering of edges, textures and depth.

✦ ClearMotion 200

Image noise, which causes the blurring of a moving picture, is drastically reduced to make more transparency. Toshiba ClearMotion 200 combines a 100Hz rate with scanning backlight technology to achieve the equivalent of a 200Hz effect. Motion judder/blurring will be virtually eliminated.

✦ REGZA Wooter

Equipped with the NEW REGZA Wooter, REGZA LCD TV delivers deeper bass without compromising on the slim design. The REGZA Wooter controls output sounds below 100Hz compared to 150Hz in ordinary LCD TVs. An extra dimension bass that improves overall sound quality, making music and movies much more enjoyable.


# Lee provides sting for Cobra cagers

By Jasmine W. Payo

PLAYING DOUBLE DUTY HARDLY SLOWED DOWN DALY LEE.

Listed as a playing assistant coach, Lee stroll bombed to the final quarter to lift Cobra Energy Drink to an 81-77 decision of feisty newcomer AirMax in the 2013 PBL PG Pilot Inter Playoffs Cup yesterday at the Fuares Sports Arena in Pasig City.

Lee dropped 18 of his 23 points in the fourth period to almost single-handedly earn the game reversal for the frontrunners, who trailed at 51-59 heading into the final eight minutes.

"Almost everybody helped, but when the chips were down we went to Deal Lee," said Cobra coach Lawrence Chongson.

Lee pumped in 10 straight points in a 17-3 surge that pushed the boys-in-red ahead, 68-64.

"I've seen his maturity," said Chongson of Lee, the star University of the East guard who also collected eight rebounds, five assists and a couple of steals.

"I decided to appoint him as an assistant because I think it will help him when it comes to thinking games. It's an added responsibility."

In the second game, Mc Manuel buried 17 points and grabbed nine boards as Phoenix B Complex dumped Ani-PGA, 83-62, to join the early leaders.

"Everybody contributed," said Phoenix coach Alvin Castro. "We had balanced scoring, rebounding and assists."

Patrick Catubang hooked 22 points, including a pair of crucial baskets in the final three minutes that kept the rallying Transformers at bay.

Jed Llagas also added 16 markers for the Iconists, who joined opening-day winners Eastwood and Cocoa's Blue.

Looming on the clutch plays of Jun Collera and Allen Medina, the Transformers closed out the third period with a 12-5 spurt to wrest the lead, 52-51, then pulled away by opening the fourth quarter with a 7-0 surge for their 59-51 advantage.

Medina paced the Transformers with 19 points, while Collera finished a rebound short of a double-double with 10 points and nine boards.

**The scores:**

**First Game**

**COBRA** (81) – Lee 23, Catubang 17, Llagas 16, Mendoza 6, Reyes 5, Ogbeide 5, Barroca 2, Garcia 2, Galvez 0, Ferrer 0, Gonzaga 0, Aquino 0.

**AIRMAX** (77) – Medina 19, Collera 10, Bautista 7, Cube 7, Ayahanan 5, Alfonso 5, Alvarez 5, Dalisay 4, Cabalo 4, Vitug 3, Sebastian 2, Gabriel 2, Lumanlan 2.

Quarters: 20-16, 34-28, 51-42, 81-77

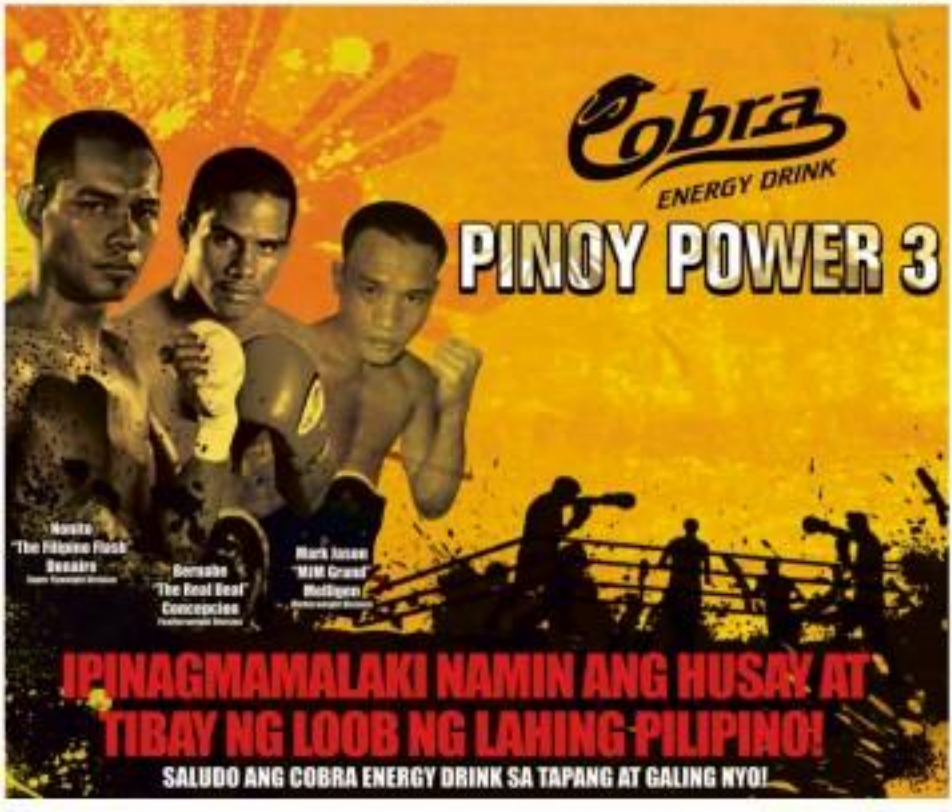
**Second Game**

**PHOENIX B** (83) – Manuel 17, Lo 14, Serrano 11, Nava 11, Arao 10, Adalia 7, Reyes M. 6, Reyes J. 5, Ramos 2, Ilustrisimo 0, Reyes E. 0, Ramos E. 0.

**ANI-PGA** (62) – Pascual S. 11, Arao 11, Gego 10, Ilustrisimo 8, Acosta 6, Millan 5, Bonilla 4, Dizon 3, Pascual J. 3, Dimaro 2, Deg-G. Gonzaga 0.

Quarters: 21-12, 37-32, 60-46, 83-62

EDUARDO Tenorio of Phoenix B drives off Mark Cogeo of Ani-PGA.

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

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IN THIS ISSUE
- Pfizer-Unilab patent war over Lipitor rages on /B8

# '09 budget gap hit ₱298B on weak earnings

## Full-year figure was 5 times greater than the P68.1-B deficit in '08

By Bancel W. Domingo

THE BUDGET DEFICIT REACHED P298.5 BILLION IN 2009 due to weak revenues, Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves said yesterday.

The amount exceeded last year's target deficit limit of P250 billion by almost a fifth. It was more than three times the 968.1-billion deficit incurred in 2008.

"We were hoping to perform better [than the likely scenario of a P200-2-billion deficit (in 2009) due to improved tax collection in December," Teves said. "But the revenue gains were offset by increased spending for infrastructure toward the end of the year."

Even then, the finance chief said the resulting deficit was below the P300 billion the financial market was expecting.

"Also, the deficit is equivalent to 3.9 percent of gross domestic product, and is relatively better than many of our peers in the region," Teves said.

But he still expressed concern that the country's fiscal gains from past reforms could be "quickly eroded by various tax relief measures."

In 2009, newly endorsed tax laws

TO PAGE B2

**Shares closed lower**

THE LOCAL STOCK MARKET SLID 1.25% on on Thursday, snapping a six-day winning streak as investors ran out of fresh investments to maintain their buyings as

SHARES /B2

## RP tech firms head out to Silicon Valley

By Abigail L. Ho

THREE LOCAL START-UP TECHNOLOGY firms are now on their way to Silicon Valley, after winning a pitch competition that will not only govern them access on a global market but also be awarded handling.

Topping the challenge was Ayannah, a provider of software services for transactions made over online and mobile communication networks.

The company's pitch was for Bindah, an application targeted at the overseas Filipino worker and expatriate market. Apart from actual remittances, Bindah allows OFWs to send "microgifts" such as prepaid load, special occasion gifts, and even connectivity and healthcare.

"We have more than just an idea... we have an existing profitable service. We want to launch internationally, and broaden the range of products we offer," Ayannah chief executive Miguel Perez said.

Climbing the second spot was Yec Solutions Inc., a 10-year-old company providing technical, marketing, human resources, intellectual property, and customer support for various Internet and wireless services.

The company's pitch, WikiAssured.net and Whizzup system, allows millions to collaborate in and across high-quality location information through the Web or any mobile device.

"Till has access to information from numerous high-traffic websites ... that we can leverage for WikiAssured.net," founder and managing director Eric Tomacruz said.

Such websites include AbanteCom with more than 3 million members worldwide.

BP /B3

## Meralco slams gov't audit report

By Amy R. Remo

MANILA ELECTRIC CO., THE COUNTRY'S biggest power distributor, yesterday slammed reports that it had overcharged customers by as much as P7 billion in 2004 and 2005.

"We maintain that we did not overcharge," said Meralco president and COO Jose P. de Jesus. "Our unbundled rates were duly approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) in 2003 after extensive evaluation by the commission of the property used and the expenses incurred in providing electricity service."

Meralco vice president and utility economist Israel Asuncion de la Peña summed that only "actual costs incurred and assets used and useful in delivering service in the year 2000 were incorporated in the ERC-approved unbundled rates."

"The rates were not adjusted for any more

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# Ayala Land unveils 'most aggressive' capex for '10

By Dimitri L. Lozad

AYALA LAND INC., THE COUNTRY'S largest real estate developer, expected a slight decline in its earnings last year due to the "challenging macroeconomic environment" that hit the company hard in the first quarter.

At the same time, however, the the Zobel family-controlled firm unveiled an aggressive expansion plan for 2010, saying it would spend P57.17 billion this year to launch new projects "across all product segments."

In a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the publicly listed firm revealed that it earned a total of P4.66 billion last year, representing a 13 percent decline compared to the P5.36 billion recorded in 2008.

Nonetheless, Ayala Land said that it posted "a strong financial performance" for the year as its consolidated core net income—

## '09 net income slips by 13%

which excludes extraordinary items—reached P4.64 billion in 2009, nearly matching to record P4.13 billion in earnings generated in the previous year.

The company's quarterly financial performance also improved "steadily," with the P1.13 billion in net income generated in the fourth quarter of 2009 up by 7 percent quarter-on-quarter and 16 percent year-on-year, respectively.

"This was achieved through a combination of relatively stable operating revenues from key business segments and effective cost control measures," the company said in a statement.

According to Ayala Land, the P57.17 billion it would allocate for capital expenditures this year will cover expenses related to the launch of new residential and leasing projects, the ongoing construction/completion of projects currently under development, as well as some possible land acquisitions "as the company seeks to expand its presence in more growth centers across the country."

Consolidated revenues of P30.46 billion in 2009 were 10 percent lower than the P33.71 billion recorded in the previous year.

The decline was accounted for mainly by the 8 percent drop in revenues from real estate and hotel operations and the absence of capital gains from the sale of the Subic Bay–Makati City lots completed in March 2008.

Shopping centers and corporate business margins stabilized as leased out space in new malls and business process outsourcing office buildings steadily moved up.

# MPIC tollway unit income down in '09

METRO PACIFIC TOLLWAYS CORP. reported a sharp decrease in its net income for 2009 due to significantly higher general and administrative expenses, the company said yesterday.

The lower income came despite an increase in the volume of traffic on the main highway north of Metro Manila.

According to the company, net income, which included exceptional, non-cash provisions related to certain taxes, stood at P581.7 million compared with P783.9 million in 2008.

This represents a 25.7-percent decline year-on-year.

MPTC is a unit of Metro Pacific Investments Corp., which is the local unit of the First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong, owned by the Salim family of Indonesia.

Excluding one-time items, however, MPTC's "core net income" reached P1.22 billion last year, representing a 34 percent improvement from its 2008 level of P986.9 million.

The improvement in core net income of MPTC for the period was attributed to the higher than expected traffic reported by Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC) and the higher consolidation of Subic-Clark Management Corp. (SCMC), the company told the Philippine Stock Exchange.

MNTC holds the concession to operate and maintain North Luzon Expressway and is 67.1 percent owned by MPTC. SCMC operates the NLEx for MNTC and has an interim agreement to operate and maintain the Subic-Clark Tarlac Expressway. It is 40 percent owned by MPTC.

The Bases Conversion Development Authority owns BCTEX.

MNTC, for its part, said that, after deducting non-operating provisions, net income for the period, stood at P2561.3 million, lower by 7.5 percent from 2008's net income of P993 million.

It reported a "core" net income of P1.8 billion for 2009, higher by 16 percent from the core net income of P1.27 billion reported in the previous year.

Toll revenues of P5.49 billion for the period was higher compared to the P5.19 billion reported in 2008 as MNTC reported record traffic volumes. Average vehicle end-user (AVE) for the period was reported at 158,305 per day, higher by 6 percent compared with 2008.

The AVE for 2009 to NLEx was a record high. (Dimitri Lozad)


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## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 18, 2010)

## CURRENCIES

| February 18, 2010 Country | Unit | Cash Equivalent | Bank Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 1 | 1 | 46.6000 |
| Japan | Yen | 1 | 1 | 0.5000 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1 | 1 | 74.7000 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 1 | 1 | 6.0100 |
| Australia | Dollar | 1 | 1 | 41.7000 |
| Canada | Dollar | 1 | 1 | 44.7000 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 1 | 1 | 33.0000 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 1 | 1 | 44.7000 |
| Europe | Euro | 1 | 1 | 67.1000 |
| Sweden | Krona | 100 | 100 | 6.4000 |
| Denmark | Krone | 100 | 100 | 90.0000 |
| Norway | Krone | 100 | 100 | 80.0000 |
| Saudi Arabia | Riyal | 100 | 100 | 12.4000 |
| Kuwait | Dinar | 1 | 1 | 161.0000 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 1 | 1 | 123.0000 |
| Thailand | Baht | 100 | 100 | 140.0000 |
| UAE | Dirham | 100 | 100 | 12.7000 |
| Qatar | Riyal | 100 | 100 | 12.8000 |
| Taiwan | Dollar | 100 | 100 | 144.0000 |
| China | Yuan | 1 | 1 | 6.8000 |
| Hungary | Forint | 100 | 100 | 24.0000 |
| Turkey | Lira | 1 | 1 | 30.0000 |
| Russia | Ruble | 100 | 100 | 150.0000 |
| Mexico | Peso | 100 | 100 | 35.0000 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 1 | 1 | 32.0000 |
| India | Rupee | 100 | 100 | 100.0000 |
| Korea | Won | 100 | 100 | 4.0000 |

# Losses push public sector position deeper in the red

## A feisty lady

Corporate Securities Info

Raoul J. Fabiñerces

LAST WEEK, FORMER TRANSPORTation and Communications Secretary and National Telecommunications Commissioner Josefina Lichauco passed away.

She served under the Aquino and Ramos administrations at a time the country's telecommunications industry was undergoing tremendous changes brought about by the Internet, satellite and other forms of wireless connectivity.

A lawyer by profession, she was instrumental in the technical intricacies of telecommunications and information technology.

This expertise, coupled with her "think out of the box" mindset, was a perfect match for the program then of the DOTC to liberalize the telecom industry.

Knowing that accomplishing that objective through legislature would take time, Lichauco used the "executive order" approach, through then President Ramos, to compel the country's telephone companies to interconnect their facilities.

The link up enables telephone subscribers, regardless of location and company affiliation, to communicate with each other without going through the cumbersome telephone operator system.

This was the use of facilities it maximized and the companies encouraged into putting more capital to improve their infrastructure in anticipation of higher (and therefore profitable) usage.

### Resistance

Like all major business adjustments, the interconnection scheme went through a lot of technical and financial problems.

PLDT, the dominant telephone company, and its competitor had serious disagreements about, among others, linkage standards, maintenance services and interconnection charges.

Using a combination of cajoling and subtle threat to settle the regulatory deft, the feisty Lichauco was able to get the government's way.

She did not abide ill-prepared lawyers and so-called technical experts who manipulated facts and figures to serve their clients' interests.

When she sensed that the lawyer at the morning end of her blurs remarks was getting uncomfortable, she would always quick to come out with her classic "excuse me, personal, just part of the job" remark.

### Complaints

Like many public officials whose significance in a national could make a difference between windfall or loss of possible profits, Lichauco had her share of complaints with the Ombudsman from issuing subpoenas to accusations.

As in domestic politics, losing parties routinely complain about being cheated, or that the official who approved the award to the winner was bribed or otherwise benefiting realty.

She shrugged off these charges as something that came with the territory she worked in. And true to, it is a disappointment like DOTC that is often at the center of big ticket projects all over the country.

To my recollection, none of the complaints filed against her were elevated to the Sandiganbayan.

Knowing how meticulous she was in the preparation of contracts and official documents, it was highly unlikely that she would overlook compliance with the many (very many!) rules on government bids and awards.

Undue financial interest or accepting bribes in consideration for awarding a contract? I seriously doubt if she would stoop to that level.

When you are the daughter of one of the country's most successful stockbrokers and lived in the gated community of Forbes Park before joining the government, taking advantage of your position to fill pieces of silver does not sound credible. It can only come from a poor heart.

Goodbye, Ann. You've served our country well!

*For feedback, please write to rjabiñerces@inquirer.com.ph*

## In 1st half of '09, CPSD reached P109.9B

By Rainier W. Domingo

THE BALLOONING BUDGET GAP POSTED the consolidated public sector deficit (CPSD) to P109.9 billion as of the first half of 2009, according to the Department of Finance.

DOF data showed that the amount was 3.1 percent of gross domestic product, or the total value of domestic output.

In the same period, core budget spending reached P123.4 billion, or more than half of the estimated P200 billion full-year deficit.

The CPSD in the first half of last year was a reversal of the P48.1 billion surplus recorded in the same period of 2008.

The entire public sector refers to the national government, local government units (LGUs), government financial institutions (GFIs), social security institutions (SSIs) and state-owned firms.

SSIs include the Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System, and Philippine Health Insurance Corp.

GFIs include Landbank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

As of June last year, non-financial government corporations (NFPCCs) incurred an aggregate deficit of P21.2 billion.

NFPCCs include the National Power Corp., Philippine National Oil Co., Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, National Irrigation Administration, Light Rail Transit Authority, National Electrification Administration, National Housing Authority, Philippine National Railways, Philippine Ports Authority, Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority and Philippine Reclamation Authority.

The DOF said the SSIs accounted for the single largest financial operations loss, which amounted to P20.3 billion.

Also, last year's P10-billion package for the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas—used to recapitalize the liabilities of the old Central Bank of the Philippines—weighed heavily on the public sector position.

"However, this is partially offset by the better performance of SSIs, GFIs and LGUs, [which collectively posted] surpluses of P67.5 billion," the DOF added.

Last year, the DOF said an ever-increasing budget deficit and higher losses posted by state firms could push the consolidated public sector fiscal position deeper in the red. Finance officials expect a deficit of P250.05 billion in 2009, from a surplus of P52.3 billion in 2008.

For 2010, GIC savings are expected to help rein in the CPSD, which the government aims to limit to P168.8 billion.

Still, core budget spending among state firms may again push up the total deficit.

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| 1 Tambo Valley, Cagayan de Oro | 1,323 | 1 Dumaguete, Negros Occ. | 2,250 |
| 4 Mabolo, Cebu City | 1,196 | 1 Cabanatuan, Luzon | 374 |
| 1 Cavite City | 1,012 | 1 Consolacion, Cebu | 10,000 |
| 1 Olongapo City, Zambales | 1,774 | 1 Pagsanjan-Lumban, Metro Manila | 15,715 |
| 7 Bangkal, Metro | 1,000 | 1 Santiago, Isabela | 10,000 |
| 1 Sta. Rosa, Laguna | 10,000 | 1 Pampanga, Metro Manila City | 10,000 |
| 1 Pinamungajan, Cebu | 10,000 | 1 Alabang, Muntinlupa City | 20,000 |
| 11 Marikina, Metro Manila | 7,000 | | |
| 11 San Pedro, Laguna | 10,128 | | |
| 13 Carmelray, Calamba | 99,000 | | |
| 1 Cebu City-Talamban Rd., Cebu | 1,000 | 1 Baguio City | 100,000 |
| 1 Tarlac, Central Luzon | 1,000 | 1 Bataan, Luzon | 1,000 |
| 1 Tagaytay, Batangas | 1,000 | 1 Tagaytay, Batangas (Int'l Lot) | 10,000 |
| 1 Sta. Rosa, Laguna | 1,000 | 1 Tagaytay, Batangas (Int'l Lot) | 5

# BUSINESS *Friday*

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/business
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

LCD billboard catches attention of motorists. (JAY ISON)

## *Outdoor advertising: A viable option for SMEs*

UNDERSTANDABLE SMALL and medium enterprises (SMEs) have lower marketing budgets than large companies and conglomerates.

Big corporations can spend millions for luxury advertising campaigns. They have ample resources to place numerous spots in primetime TV shows and popular radio programs.

On the other hand, most SMEs are limited by their budgets, leaving them with fewer or more selective options.

### Being competitive via outdoor ads

Fortunately, there are other ways for SMEs to compete with retail giants in terms of brand exposure – via out-of-home ads.

Outdoor advertising presents a more affordable channel for small and medium companies to project their brands and achieve top-of-mind awareness for their products and services.

To illustrate, Outdoor Media Advocacy Group (OMAG) executive director lawyer Troy Rubio says, "For a budget of P5 million a year, you get three billboard placements for one year. That's 24 hours, seven days a week, or 365 days of continuous exposure."

What's more, the target audience of out-of-home media is a captive audience, as they cannot turn the message off. Like it or not, most consumers get exposed to TV advertisers they are unaware.

"More and more people are spending time traveling to and from their homes to offices, schools or malls. Outdoor ads offer small companies consistent repetitive exposure at very low costs," affirms Gigi Tibi, a former brand manager for an apparel company.

### SMEs for SMEs

The outdoor advertising industry itself is composed of small and medium businesses, from the design service providers to the quality conveyors, contractors and printers, as well as the space providers. Hence, the overall better understanding of the distinctive needs and requirements of this specific market than the SMEs themselves?

"We are SMEs who understand the budgetary limitations of our fellow SME citizens," explains Rubio. "We can understand the pressures of acquisition getting in an increasingly competitive market, against big and multinational companies with very limited marketing funds."

Apart from offering alternative media that will help them maximize exposure, our suppliers also cater to these companies' thin, because of budget constraints, are usually charmed by big-time media," adds Rubio.

In essence, the modern advertising sector gives SMEs sufficient support by leveling the playing field to make companies to achieve a commensurate level of business growth has proven effective.

*(For more information, call the Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines secretariat at (632) 752-0293.)*

# Divining the future of food

By Karen V. De Asis
Contributor

## Demand for healthy, organic products rising

CONSUMER RESEARCHERS and experts from various industries have mapped out global food trends and emerging preferences for the years ahead.

The study was undertaken by Leatt Custard Division, a research consultancy that was recently launched by international advertising agency Lowe Worldwide to provide in-depth forecasts of market-driving trends in consumer culture.

In its pilot effort, Leatt Custard came out with a global "Food For Thought" study to determine emerging consumer preferences and behavior toward food consumption.

Lowe Custard's lead consumption expert stems from a two-phase study culling data from interviews with 300 food experts and CEO industry leaders from the United Kingdom, Germany, Turkey, United States, Brazil, Argentina, Australia, India, Philippines, China, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand.

### Local experts

Among local experts on food consumer trends that Lowe Manila had talked to were food and beverage researcher and government Pedro Juan, former CEO of Figaro; Ralph Joseph, CEO of Ralph's Wines; and Charlene Tan, associate food editor of Tummy Magazine.

At more people age and food education on the benefits of healthy eating in on the rise, there is increasing consciousness for nutrition food products.

Food production is one of the areas affected by climate change. There is an impending global environmental crisis as renewable and non-renewable sources of raminfish and energy become depleted.

Mass production of food has been identified as detrimental to environmental preservation.

### Food is self-expression

Increasingly, food is becoming an expression of a consumer's individuality. Culinary traditions, authentic sources of food ingredients, and ways of cooking and preparing food have been widespread, adding flavor to the dishes' uniqueness and restaurant evolving individual taste and preference.

Globally, more people are becoming conscious about eating less. Logically, this has been contributed as to increase in obesity rate and thus making healthy food options more appealing. Health and well-being has become preventive of obesity while having more money for indulgences other than food.

### Comfort food on the rise

Local dishes and cuisine will gain importance and prestige in the next few years as a new generation of hotel chefs rediscover unique and authentic local and regional specialties.

Also, world trends indicate an appreciation for unique, authentic local cuisine. The same goes for indigenous ingredients some of which have already been turned into conventional food products. These include angelina ice cream, shallow cream, malunggay chips, etc.

### Focus on safety

Consumers are likely to become more watchful over the safety of the food they eat. On the line is the expansion of the manufacturers, regardless of whether it is a global company or a home-based provider of culinary dishes, pastries, etc.

The source of food becomes a primary motivation for buying.

### More enjoyable menus

There was a time when healthy menus were likely to be bland-tasting. No longer. These days, more and more people with a love for cuisine are finding ways of leveling healthiness into their food consumption.

### More functional food

The food market has now birthed over-the-top trend. Functional foods provide preventive health-related medical benefits.

Lower Manila predicts a more vigorous industry as the dollar value declining market will see increasing number of functional foods introduced to promote one's health and well-being.

Foods are in for a boost and pocket break as more and more consumers shift to all natural, fresh fruit juices in the name of health.

### Close to the source

More and more consumers want their food cooked fresh—straight from the source to the pan. Leisure farms are on the rise as countryside families with farms planted with fresh fruits and vegetables, and some with provisions for a fish pond and livestock, provide lodging and accommodation in some weekend or weekday guests bunkering for food—from feeding fresh from the source.

In Urban Manila, more and more restaurants are taking orders and harvest who know how to prepare meals or beverages right in front of customers.

### Eating is like trogding

Gone are the days when fillipino food was the only food that

local consumed. Today, a variety of cuisines from around the world are available in the local front.

One need not travel to a far location to try country-specific food.

### 'Thought leaders'

Richard Welch, SVP travel analyst of Lowe Custard, says during a recent visit that Lowe Custard is "more than just traditional market intelligence research."

"[It] philosophy is hinged on a constant dialogue with the most influential consumers."

Welch refers to these consumers as "thought leaders."

These consumers, he says, are mainly educated, belong to a comfortable economic bracket, are somehow above their opinions, and will not hesitate to try new products and services.

### Progressive insights

Thought leaders provide the most progressive insights, opinions, behavior that is likely to shape future consumer lifestyle, he adds.

Welch, with co-director Zoe Lawson and a team of researchers from London and New York met up into Lowe Custard's international research comprised of over 3,000 thought leaders in 50 cities worldwide.

Welch, along with Siang Gutierrez, vice president for Brand Planning in Lowe Manila, shares that insights gathered from thought leaders will likely become part of mainstream behavior one to three years down the road.

*(Email writer at karen@worldwidecom or karen@yahoo.net.)*

## Advertising taglines, what for?

MARKETING Rx
*Dr. Ned Roberts & Andy Roberts*

Q: HERE'S OUR SITUATION. We're a fairly successful medium-sized beverage company. We'd like to introduce a new brand of natural green tea.

I'm the CEO. I'm a chemist and an engineer. The ad agency that my marketing head has been using proposed her own new brand a radio and print ad campaign that simply mentions repeatedly the brand name with its accompanying "new rhyming tagline."

For selective reasons, I can't tell you the brand and tagline. But our ad agency says this is all that our small ad budget can afford. However, the proposed "brand name plus tagline" can be, the agency claims, as effective as the more-expensive ad campaigns of competitors.

I couldn't get a convincing explanation of how exactly this can be as effective as claimed.

What I wanted was an ad that tells our target consumers the unique benefits of our tea brand and then explains how each of its tea features guarantees delivery of each of the brand's claimed benefits.

That way, even if our brand is purely with competition, at least it's clear to our consumers that there's an alternative. We're that's honest and clear about what is our give them.

According to our ad agency, in today's cluttered advertising world, tea drinking consumers no longer "have the time nor will they bother to read, understand, and evaluate what I wanted said about our tea brand as a good alternative tea drink versus competition.

### Name of the game

The agency says that the name of the advertising game now is to catch customers' attention so that our brand gets to be top-of-mind.

Once our brand is top of mind, the buying decision that comes when the consumer finds herself in the store.

Do you have some experience in this kind of disagreement about ad effectiveness and can you at least please tell us how exactly a "new rhyming tagline" can be that effective?

A: What makes a good advertisement?

Advertisers and the creative departments of advertising agencies will have different answers.

Most advertisers want consumers to understand their product in their ad so that they will buy.

To these advertisers, product understanding is key to the consumer purchase decision.

On the other hand, most ad agency creatives now believe that consumers buy not so much because they try to understand what they buy, but because the product has created in occupying a top-of-mind or top-of-heart position.

In effect, your question is actually assumptions to more we can.

What we need to do first is to do is want our diagnosis is to briefly explain what is meant by a "rhyming tagline."

### Memorable Pinoy taglines

We know them, but do not really refer to them as a "rhyming tagline."

Some memorable examples include Jollibee's "Langhap Sarap" and former President Estrada's "EDSA pass to make you rich."

According to Rogaine, it is easier to come up with rhyme in Filipino than in English. The movies' MRs-it's easy; random marketing campaign in the late 1970s with the Commission on Population used such a rhyming tagline. In its print and radio ads, the condom campaign encouraged couples to use a condom "para di na mapgod sa panggagap" (which our mixed-lingual friends found hard to translate into ordinary, non-rhyming English).

Now to your question: "How exactly can a "new rhyming tagline" be effective?"

As is practically all issues about effectiveness, what works in some cases will not work in all. This allows us to transform your question into: "Under what circumstances are can rhyming ad taglines effective?"

### Blink!

It's useful to distinguish between ads that consumers process consciously and systematically and those they respond to by "thin-slicing," as popularized by Malcolm Gladwell's book Blink (The art of rapid cognition).

Ads that consumers process consciously are those ads you want: "an ad that tells our target consumers the many benefits of our tea brand and then explains how each of its tea features guarantees delivery of each of the brand's claimed benefits."

Here, the ad successfully pulls the consumers values consumers consciously listen (if a radio ad) or read (if a print ad), try understanding what they have heard or read, and then decide to act on what they understood.

If we use Malcolm Gladwell's lingo in his book, Blink, we will term this processing as "think-slicing."

It's a long-winded systematic processing of the ad message, proceeding step-by-step from ad awareness to ad recall to understanding, to attitude formation to motivation or purchase intention and finally to actual purchase.

In contrast, in ads where consumers "thin slice," processing: If there is one at all is quick and seldom is taken in 2-3 seconds.

In his book, Gladwell cites many observable and familiar examples.

The most notable of these is the quarterback who in 2 seconds locate exactly to whom to throw the football and at what speed.

That's thinking super quick and with a minimum of information, which the term "thin slice" captures so well.

It is a characteristic of thin sliced ads that they are in fact processed in the consumer's sub-conscious or even unconscious.

We had an occasion to talk about our celebrated case of the self-conscious or unconscious processing of ads when we featured in our previous Marketing Rx column the phenomenon of the "mere exposure effect."

### Exposure effect

To quickly recall, the mere exposure effect tells us that advertising viewers or readers don't have to be attentive to your ad to be persuaded.

They just need some repeated exposure to the ad to get them to like its advertised brand. That, in essence, is what an ad's rhyming tagline is meant to do.

How will you know if this will be true of your tea ad?

Research into whether your target consumers see this/these or thick slices in their processing of your ad.

If they are true thick slicers, then your ad agency is right. But if they are thick slicers, then you are right and your ad agency should follow your preferred way of advertising.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at Marketing@MADISE.net or 19Ned-RobertsMktg@gmail.com.)

# Comelec's uncertain response to the plea of concerned farmers

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

LAST FEB. 16, AT THE HEARING OF THE Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JOSC) on computerized elections co-chaired by Sen. Francis Escudero and Rep. Teodoro Locsin, Jr., the latter asked Comelec chair Jose Melo to address the issues raised in the Feb. 11 Ayanan Agriculture letter to Comelec at the next JOSC hearing.

This request of Locsin was certainly a welcome endorsement to the efforts of the farmers who have so far received a negative Comelec response to their most important recommendations. This is the proclamation of winning candidates done only after the legally required random manual audit shows an absence of serious irregularities. Through the Ayanan opposition to its approval by the Comelec's partially or fully accepting the Ayanan's basic other recommendations on the automated election system, they are very disappointed that their most important recommendation has so far received a negative response.

## Letter

In the Ayanan's Feb. 11 letter to Comelec, it stated: "The Ayanan Agriculture, a former Estherbilt coalition of 62 federations and organizations covering all sectors of agricultural economy, recommends that the random manual audit required by law be done before, rather than after, proclamation. If all goes well, it may delay proclamation by one day. If there are serious irregularities in some areas, this may take a few more days. Nevertheless, even if the latter happens, it is the new automated system will be at least eight times faster than the approximately 42 days under the old manual counting system."

But perhaps it was not only the letter that motivated the concerned chair it is given today, but also the email that preceded the letter's delivery. Before actually giving the letter to Melo, 50 Ayanan farmer and fisherfolk leaders organized a media forum on the importance of the letter's contents, which included the request to hold proclamation after audit, as well as a recommended speedy audit procedure that Comelec will did not heed.

Crispin Aquino, president of PARSAMA with its presence in more than 40 provinces and counts the familias farmers among its members, said that the slight delay in the proclamation because of the required audit would be a small price to pay for increased accuracy and the enhanced credibility of the automated election system. Bonifacio Mateo, chair of BASAMSE, which has successfully led the fight against onion smuggling, added that the Ayanan recommended audit procedure, which had support from Blas Magpale, president of the Social Weather Stations, and Raimundo Embrigo, former SGV partner who established the SGV division on computer audit, would help ensure both accuracy and speed. In fact hence, Embrigo was with the farmers in helping explain the procedure's technical aspects.

## Discredited leaders' positions

At the Feb. 16 hearing, the Comelec officials were asked if the proclamation would indeed be before, rather than after, the random manual audit. The response was that the Comelec was inclined to do this to retain the objective of speed.

We can understand this initial Comelec position. If the winning audit procedure is used, it could cause unnecessary and disruptive delays. This is precisely why the Ayanan proposed an audit procedure that would help ensure both accuracy and speed.

Among those who expressed serious concerns over the Comelec position of audit after proclamation were Bonifacio Tiamzon, Francis Pangilinan and Agapito Pimentel, and Rep. Roman Romulo. No one in the Oversight Committee expressed support for the Comelec position.

As stated earlier, the Comelec was asked to respond officially to the Ayanan agriculture letter at the next JCOC hearing. It has been a long hard fight for the farmers to get their voice heard, but it appears that this is now finally happening.

## Conclusion

It is uncertain what the Comelec response to the farmers will be. It is doubtful recommended that the Comelec pay special attention to the closing paragraphs in the Ayanan's Feb. 11 letter.

"We, the farmers and fisherfolk, constitute the largest voting sector in the country: 40 percent of the voting population, or approximately 16 million voters. In the past, our votes has rarely been heard, especially on the issue of election procedures. Today, we are putting a stop to this. We want our votes properly counted, so that we can help select leaders who will give the proper attention to our needs and our critical role in our nation's development. We believe the current Comelec position of proclamation regardless of the results of the Random Manual Audit may make a mockery of the whole system. It undermines our right to an honest and accurate vote. It is therefore with the utmost urgency that we request Comelec to change its mind and follow the reasonable and logical sequence: audit first, then proclamation. For us, to do otherwise would be a tragedy."

*The author is chair of Agrinetwork, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agrinetph_ph@yahoo.com or telefax 6122112.*


**PRULINK** | **PRU LIFE UK**

| Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts | Current Week (Dec. 31, 2010) | Last Week (Dec. 24, 2010) |
|---|---|---|
| Bond Fund - Peso | 1.31858 | 1.31858 |
| Managed Fund - Peso | 2.12804 | 2.08030 |
| Growth Fund - Peso | 1.33868 | 1.30638 |
| Equity Fund - Peso | 2.07150 | 2.11488 |
| Bond Fund - US Dollar | 1.76150 | 1.76150 |
| Balanced Fund - Peso | 1.71868 | 1.69827 |
| Balanced Fund - Peso | 1.29611 | 1.29611 |
| Balanced Fund - Peso | 1.29611 | 1.29611 |
| Peso Managed Fund - Peso | 1.25788 | 1.25788

# YeAH Organization offers Ninoy, Cory phone cards

THE YOUNG AND HONEST (YeAH) Organization recently introduced a new series of prepaid phone cards with Ate Ninoy and Cory Aquino collectible designs.

"The special edition prepaid phone cards are now available to interested and can be used by Smart and Talk 'N Text subscribers. More importantly, it gives the public the chance to be agents of change in a simple yet unprecedented way," explains Ron Aquino, official spokesman of the YeAH organization.

Under the YeAH organization's "Democracy through People Empowerment", the prepaid cards, tagged as the YeAH cards, allow people from different walks of life the opportunity to support Noynoy Aquino's bid for the Presidency by the process of collecting these cards. Noynoy's supporters make a donation of P50 to the campaign for every card purchased. These limited edition Ninoy and Cory phone cards

will be sold for P60 and will contain 30M worth of load. The remaining P10 is donated to the campaign.

"It is a powerful paradigm shift with the masses now giving a donation in their candidate instead of historically having to donate to campaign coffers," explains Aquino. The P10-donation means "I want an honest government, so I am beholden to no vested interests and I can help make this happen," explains Aquino.

The YeAH organization is a registered non-profit organization that aims to promote good governance by supporting and funding projects geared towards ensuring clean and honest elections for 2013. Inspired by the values of our heroes Ninoy and Cory Aquino, YeAH vows to continue to spread the spirit of patriotism, and the values of integrity and honesty in public service, for more information on the YeAH organization, log on to www.yellowandhonest.org.

**CITIGOLD NOW AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE**

Citibank's award-winning wealth management service Citigold is now available in Citibank Savings nationwide. Sanjiv Sethee, chief of Citibank Savings, and Jonathan Lanes, Citi Asia Pacific head for consumer banking and global cards, led the inauguration of a Citigold Center in Citibank Savings Ermita branch. The colorful ceremony was highlighted by the Chinese Lion Dance, the tribulations of "angpaos" (lucky Chinese festive envelopes) filled with money from and coin and candy showers). Clients were also treated to complimentary consultations for the future of the coming Year of the Metal Tiger with renowned geomancer Charlie Chua.

# Kuya Ef's inspiration in a pencil

ON INTERNATIONAL HERO OF 2009, 2010 titan "Kuya Ef" Felicilda has released a Special Limited Edition 7Pencil from Amalgamated Specialties Corp (Asperx), the sole pencil manufacturer in the Philippines.

"This Special Limited Edition 7Pencil is inspiration in a pencil. It is made to honor Teacher Efren, and support his cause. We hope anyone who receives it will be reminded of the potential he has to improve himself and inspire others, may it be through education or in other ways," says Elizalde D. Wood Jr., president and general manager.

He and Asperx board directors handed to Kuya Ef the Special Limited Ed. 7Pencils in a modest but meaningful event at the Philsteelgate School where Kuya "Ef" leads classes for values and math remedies.

The Special Limited Edition 7Pencil is not sold anywhere. It won't come as a surprise if it will not be sharpened and used by whoever receives it, but kept as a collector's item.

Also present at the event were volunteers from Kuya "Ef's" Symmetric Town Company (STC), Philsteelgate School faculty and scholars, distinguished University of the Philippines Diliman professor and author Dr. Ma. Teresa Bulat, and other Asperx executives.

ALSO: Executives that commemorated Special Limited Edition 7Pencils. Silversmith Pioneer Plaza, Executive Asperx board director Juanito Tee co. Elizalde Wood Jr, Asperx board chairman Lea Chee Yee Tecnasores and Director Literina and Efren Teresa Bulat.

Kuya Ef holds several other titles and honors, including the Order of Lakandula recently conferred by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

**MPI-PBI CONDUCTS 3RD BAMBOO SEMINAR IN JALA-JALA**

Bamboo expert Romualdo Eric Ana of MPI Farm Business Incubation (MPI-FBI) conducted the third Bamboo Industrialization and Nursery Establishment training-workshop recently at the MPI-FBI farmers' training Center in Jala-jala, Rizal. All participants were taught the proper care and management of bamboo as a natural resource with much business potential. Shown is Ms. Ana (standing, right) giving an inspirational message to the class (left), as Dr. Jose Rosa C. Cayo (center, right of Ms. Ana), VP for MPI Farm Business Institute, looks on.


Philippine Electricity Market Corporation

## Call for Nominees to the WESM Governance Committees

The Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC) is accepting nominations for membership to the following Governance Committees of the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM):

- The **Rules Change Committee (RCC)** is tasked to assist the Department of Energy (DOE) in relation to the formulation and WESM Rules, market manuals, procedures and guidelines. Nominations are being solicited for the remaining **two** members who are independent of the electric power industry with level of technical or commercial knowledge and expertise in economics or Philippine law.
- The **Dispute Resolution Group (DRG)**, which acts as mediators or arbitrators for the resolution of issues and disputes arising between and among the Market Operator (MO), System Operator (SO), WESM members and prospective WESM members. Nominations are being solicited for the **eight** members who are independent of the electric power industry with experience in alternative dispute resolution practices and procedures, and sufficient experience in power system operations and competitive wholesale electricity markets in financial or commodity markets.
- The **Technical Committee (TC)** provides expertise to the market in relation to information technology, metering data and other technical matters. In the exercise of its functions, the TC may propose rule changes to improve the efficiency of the market as well as to attain WESM objectives. Nominations are being solicited for the remaining **one** member with expertise in the field of engineering, information technology and information system.
- The **FEMAudit Committee (FAC)**, which has direct supervision over the internal audit of all transactions of the WESM. Nominations are being solicited for the remaining **one** member who is independent of the electric power industry with sufficient and relevant experience in information technology and information system.
- The **Market Surveillance Committee (MSC)**, which is tasked to monitor and assess the trading activity of WESM trading participants in the market to ensure fair competition and compliance with the WESM Rules. Nominations are being solicited for the remaining **two** members who are independent of the Philippine electric power industry and of the government with relevant experience in power system operations and competitive wholesale electricity markets in financial or commodity markets.

The aforementioned Committees will be directly involved in governing the operation of the electricity spot market.

To be eligible, nominees should be independent of the Philippine electricity industry ("Independent"). A person is deemed to be independent, if such person:

(a) is not an employee, contractor, agent, manager, director, or shareholder directly or indirectly holding more than 5% the outstanding capital stock, of a WESM Member;

(b) is not a relative, within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, of an employee, contractor, agent, manager, director, or shareholder directly or indirectly holding more than 5% the outstanding capital stock, of a WESM Member;

(c) is not an employee, contractor, agent, manager, director, or shareholder directly or indirectly holding more than 5% the outstanding capital stock, of a company, affiliate or any other entity related to or associated with a WESM Member, where:

(i) A related company or trade, is a parent or holding company of the WESM Member, a subsidiary or affiliate of the WESM Member or a subsidiary of a holding company of the WESM Member; and

(ii) An associate is a person who is a director, manager, or shareholder of that related company or entity or a relative of such person; or

(d) Has not been employed by any electric power industry participant, or a company or body related to or associated with a WESM Member, within one year prior to the appointment date.

Interested candidates must submit an accomplished Nomination Form and updated Curriculum Vitae to:

PEM Board Selection Committee
c/o Office of the Corporate Secretary
18/F Robinsons-Equitable Tower, ADB Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

All candidates nominated to the relevant Committees will be shortlisted and evaluated in accordance with the qualification and disqualifications set forth in the Guidelines Governing the Constitution of the PEM Board Committees and based on the selection criteria agreed upon by the Board Selection Committee. Successful nominees are expected to dedicate sufficient time to participate in committee activities such as regular committee meetings and willing to undertake training program on the operations of the WESM and the rule of these Committees.

For further information on the operations of the Philippine WESM and the functions of the governance committees, please refer to the WESM Rules and other pertinent documents posted in the WESM website (www.wesm.ph). You may also contact the Market Assessment Group at e-mail address mag@wesm.ph or telephone numbers 986-2704/631-8734 loc. 261.


# OFWs invited to SM City Cebu GPC opening

SM SUPERMALLS OPENED THE 9th Global Pinoy Center (GPC) at SM City Cebu on Feb. 17. Around 40 OFWs like Nedza Hidalgo, Cory Barrenga, Fe Gale Villarico and Monique Quallet Cogtimanan flyby her mother Amparin Quallet) were honored during the GPC launch.

Any OFW including their loved ones who visit SM's Global Pinoy Center can get their own personalized Global Pinoy Card which entitles them to exclusive rewards and privileges. The Global Pinoy Card allows these exclusive entry to SM Global Pinoy Center where they can do transactions at the BDO remittance counter and the department store's foreign exchange at the business counter. They can also use the GPC's Internet facilities for free and avail themselves of free voice or video calls through the Abot Tanaw Program. This card also enables them to enjoy P500,000 worth of discounts and perks.

OFWs can now visit and get their cards at the newly opened Global Pinoy Center located at the SM Mall of Asia, SM City Baguio, SM City Clark, SM City Manila, SM City North Edsa, SM Megamall, SM City Bacoor and SM City Rosario.

SM constructed the Global Pinoy Centers as a way of acknowledging the sacrifices and dedication of OFWs to their families. Other SM Malls that opened a GPC Center this year were SM Iloilo and SM Davao on Feb. 16.

**TOBY'S SPORTS BAGS PHILIPPINE RETAILERS ASSOCIATION AWARD**

Toby's Sports received the honor for "Specialty Store-Athletic Category" in the 2008 Outstanding Philippine Products and Shopping Center of the Year Awards. "This yearly recognition is given by the country group Philippine Retailers Association (PRAyer) acknowledges the achievements of selected retailers that quality following a stringent evaluation and screening process. This is Toby's Sports third time over the last 10 years to win the PRA award for the same category. This year's victory however is most significant because Toby's Sports is the only winner to go to Malaysia to make the cut. The country's foremost sporting retail chain was selected on the basis of excellent and innovative customer service achieved through internal and external systems and processes, world-class qualities in a homegrown retailer, and its advocacy programs for the youth. Toby's Sports has been consistently innovating in its customer service-making available a wide array of relevant products to both amateur and professional athletes. Its store offer 10,000 sport products from 140 internationally known sports brands. Shown are (R) Director Victoria Maria Bonoglio, PRA director and Wilson Bonoglio, Director/CEO/Vice President, Toby Sports Sports corporate Jose C. Gaviola, Toby's vice-president Toby P. Claudio and the efficient Marikit Design Group president Johnny Habib.


**Makati High School grand alumni homecoming set Feb. 27**

MAKATI HIGH SCHOOL INVITES ALL GRADUATES from batches 1957 to 1999 to its grand alumni homecoming and mass on Feb. 27, MHS Grounds. Registration starts at 4 p.m. This year's homecoming is organized and hosted by batches 1975, 1980, 1985 and 1990. For details, call 1-line Victoria Abalos 1975) at 891-91-16, 0917-5388775; Anthony Gregory Abarca 1980) at 422-2680; 0920-9660261; Irma Abalos Abalos 1985) at 890-851-5; 0939-9602106; Val Diaz Chacon 1985) at 853-2816, 0917-5406791; and Susan Javier Abalos 1990) at 840-8015.

# US dollar strengthens; gold slides on IMF plan to sell more gold

HONG KONG—THE US DOLLAR rose against the euro yesterday as poor growth prospects and Greece's fiscal deficiencies hounded the euro zone single currency, while gold slid after the International Monetary Fund said it would sell more of its bullion holdings.

Asian shares drifted lower as the stronger dollar weighed on commodity prices and resource-related stocks, despite modest gains on Wall Street on Wednesday on news that US housing starts in January hit a six-month high and on upbeat results at companies like Hewlett-Packard Co.

Investors remained focused on the extensive speed at which the world's economies were recovering from recession, punishing some laggards in Europe and rewarding those showing more confidence.

Several Federal Reserve policy makers, comfortable with the US recovery, want to begin selling securities relatively soon to cut bank reserve help in the financial system, the Fed's latest meeting minutes showed on Wednesday.

"The US took a very aggressive response to the crisis (monetary, bank recapitalization, fiscal) and while there are costs to these measures, they will likely result in a faster exit from the recession," Michael Hasenstab, senior vice president and co-director of Franklin Templeton's fixed income group, told Reuters in a telephone interview.

Hasenstab, who manages some $68 billion in assets, said he was underweight the euro and has no exposure to Greek bonds.

The spread of Greece's 10-year government bond yield over the euro zone has narrowed some in February, though it remains 80 basis points wider since 2010 began, reflecting greater distrust among investors to be compensated for the risk of owning the debt.

Still, some investors have spotted some value in the relatively high yields of Greek bonds.

The planned gold sales by the IMF pressured the American dollar though the institution said the selling would be spread over time. Australia is the world's fourth largest gold producer.

Gold slid 0.3 percent to $1,103.20 an ounce after peaking at $1,120.05, the highest since Jan. 20, before the IMF unveil set gold sales. The precious metal has posted gains in every year since 2000 and last year surged 31 percent.

In equity markets, the Nikkei share average closed up 0.3 percent at a two-week high as a weaker yen helped exporters' stocks, though profit-taking capped gains and for the index booked its best star in more than two months in the previous session.

The MSCI index of Asia Pacific stocks outside Japan slipped 0.4 percent, weighed down by a 2.1 percent fall in the materials sector. Raw-trading volumes across Asia were thin because of Lunar New Year holidays this week.

Despite some profit-taking, oil stiffened from the regular year-ended 31 percent.

In other

# BUSINESS

## Pfizer-Unilab patent war over Lipitor rages on

### Pharmaceutical firms trade barbs over Avamax version

By Abigail L. Ho

EVEN AFTER FAILING TO OBTAIN a court injunction against United Laboratories Inc., multinational drug firm Pfizer Inc. is sounding its ground in an ongoing patent war with the local pharmaceutical firm.

In a statement issued yesterday, Pfizer public affairs director Pamela Pascual said the company's patents continued to be valid, and it was confident that these would withstand scrutiny by any court.

"Research-based pharmaceutical companies like Pfizer commit billions of dollars to discover breakthroughs, like saving medicines to address the world's most feared diseases. Companies like ours rigorously protect and uphold intellectual property because doing so allows us to continue to find more cures for more people and communities," she said.

"For patents which are valid and in force in the Philippines such as Lipitor's, we just ask that it be respected until it expires in 2012," she added.

Unilab last last year started selling the generic version of Atorvastatin Calcium, an anticholesterol drug, competing directly with Pfizer's popular Lipitor.

At around the same time, Unilab filed with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines a patent invalidation case against Pfizer's patent on Atorvastatin Calcium. The case has yet to be resolved.

Pfizer, for its part, sought an injunction from the Makati Regional Trial Court to stop Unilab from selling its version of Atorvastatin Calcium under the brand Avamax. The court denied this request.

## 'Time of use' scheme gets ERC approval

By Amy R. Roces

THE ENERGY REGULATORY Commission has approved Manila Electric Co.'s proposed retail rates under the time-of-use (TOU) scheme, which would give its customers an option to pay less for the electricity consumed by shifting their usage during off-peak hours.

Under the voluntary TOU scheme, customers will be charged higher rates during peak hours of electricity usage; lower rates during off-peak hours.

Peak hours of the day are identified in the ERC decision as being between 8:01 a.m. and 9 p.m. from Monday to Saturday and between 8:01 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Sundays. The remaining hours are considered off-peak hours.

From January to June, the peak rate for weekdays and Sundays was set at P6.9832 per kWh, while the peak rate for July to December was set at P6.3053 per kWh.

Meanwhile the off-peak rate for the whole year and for all the days of the week stood at P3.0925 per kWh.

The ERC had lowered the threshold or the monthly consumption requirement for a lifeline customer to apply for the TOU scheme.

## GMA Network keeps lead in 'Mega Manila' ratings

GMA NETWORK HOPE ITS stronghold of the TV ratings lead in viewers rich Mega Manila in 2009, according to data from AGB Nielsen, the recognized TV ratings data supplier in the country.

Based on AGB Nielsen's 2010 TV household population projections, Mega Manila TV households now comprise 35 percent of the National Urban Philippines TV population. The National Urban Television Audience Measurement (Nuram) panel of AGB Nielsen has some 3,500 TV homes in its metro domicile, compared to its rival TNS' 1,370-panel homes.

In Urban Luzon, which comprises 77 percent of Nuram, AGB Nielsen has 1,200-panel homes against TNS' 1,054, while in Mega Manila, AGB has 800-panel homes versus TNS' 770.

AGB Nielsen Philippines provides TV ratings data to at least 16 local companies including GMA Network and number TV channel list ABS-CBN2. Top media agencies plus tax organizations also subscribe to AGB Nielsen. On the other hand, according to sources, ABS-CBN is the sole subscriber to TNS.

Experience New Zealand at the
SM Mall of Asia

Wellgrant at the SM Mall of Asia recently got a glimpse of the best of the youngest country on earth during the recent Experience New Zealand at the SM Mall of Asia.

Held just in time for Waitangi, the country's National Day in February, the event showcased New Zealand's culture, products, and tourism. All New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines Antonia Mallinson led the team that launched the event together with NZ Trade and Enterprise Regional Director Alan Hubbard, New Zealand Embassy Trade Commissioner Neil Barnaby, and SM Mall of Asia Mall Manager Perlito De...

The activity highlighted New Zealand cheese, wine, organic fruits and meat products from these wine enterprises, Montana Brands Philippines, Hackwood Distribution, Autohall Trans, Philippine Wine Distributors, Zen Asia, Real Meat Farms, and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise. It also featured educational opportunities through Study International and Pilot Education Specialists, as well as immigration and tourism assistance through New Zealand Help Desk Services, Golden Summit Immigration Consultancy, and Immigration New Zealand.

Guests were also able to see the beauty of New Zealand through travel exhibits of Tourism New Zealand, Air New Zealand, New Zealand Journeys, Flower Travel, Skyline Skydiving, Philippine Airlines, Agrodome, Pan Pacific Travel, and Super Travel Corporation.

New Zealand's unique and dynamic culture with European, Maori, Pacific, and Asian influences was showcased in a performance by New Zealand singer Kiri Hokowhitu and musicians Karl Tasole, a Cook Islands-Samoan-Filipino-Chinese-Irish-Scottish-Welsh-English-Tahitian-Dutch-French-Canadian-Australian-New Zealander, and Ben Lummis, a Filipino-Chinese-Irish-Scottish-Welsh-English-Tahitian-Dutch-French-Canadian-Australian-New Zealander.

New Zealand was the last landmass on earth to be discovered, making it the youngest country. Since the first Polynesian voyagers a thousand years ago, many cultures have made New Zealand their home. With a thousand years of human settlement, New Zealand has a colorful and dramatic story dominated by the relationship between Maori and Pakeha, as the Europeans are called.

New Zealand's awesome landscapes, lush forests, amazing wildlife, and pleasant climate make it a haven for many outdoor activities and great place to unwind. New Zealand society is multi-cultural, and the vastness and variation of the terrain and regions are the great advantage of New Zealand to find out the diverse physical, cultural, and artistic landscapes are so close to each other.

Experience New Zealand is one of the many exciting cultural events on the SM Mall of Asia.

David Blackmore of Skydive Wanaka

Helper Wenchelle, New Zealand Immigration Help Services-NZAHS Director

The crowd at the Experience New Zealand event

HE NZ Ambassador Antonia Mallinson (third from left) leads the ceremonial toast together with Ms. Trade and Enterprise Regional Director Alan Hubbard, NZ Embassy Trade Commissioner Neil Barnaby, and Mall of Asia Mall Manager Perlito De

New Zealand School dance performers wowed the audience with a stunning act

Philippine Airlines and New Zealand Immigration Services booths

# LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

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MARC OF GENIUS

## Jacobs draws the (A) line

In NY Fashion Week, he goes against the tide and back to the classic all-American look—at last, clothes for real women

By Leroy Lovicio
Contributor

PUBLICITY DESIGNER MARC JACOBS stole the thunder from 300 designers in the New York Fall 2010 ready-to-wear this week by producing a collection based on the A-Line silhouette that was introduced by Christian Dior the slim-fit set in time) to the mid-20th century.

If the collections were a barometer of over-the-top offerings, Jacobs was the calm before the storm—clean-cut serene, a reinvention of classic American sportswear. He said he was challenged by going against the energy of coming up with novelty clothes. "Newness is trend-driven. I wanted to show strong, simple looks that is the foundation of American dressing in the mid-century. Somewhere to define the future, you must step back."

The A-Line, from tops, coats, skirts to flared pants, makes the woman look taller and more feminine. Like the letter A, it falls from the shoulders, flaring gradually away from the body. The long flared skirts as mid-calf make a woman look polished, tailored and smart.

Here are the best of his reinvention of 50s American luxury fabrics, soft, earthy neutrals, that will not only make you stand out for its quiet quality, but will last you years.

SPARE CHANGE: Marc Jacobs reinvents American sportswear with his A-line collection.

JINXT FROM THE BODY: Close and preppy knitwear

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M-BOX GENIUS. Purwinkle A-line organza evening dress with long cardigan

BROCADE BEAUTY. Stark colorful shoe belted and worn with socks and sensible shoes

CASUAL IS THE NEW FORMAL. Charmeuse sleeveless sweater and brief A-line skirt

SHORT FOR STRICTLY FORMAL. Transparent gold organza A-line baby-doll frock

BLACK-AND-WHITE POPCORN KNIT. Slouchy versatile separates

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FOUR LIKE IT SHORT AND BOUNCY. Alexander Wang's abbreviated bare midriff Donegal tweed suit; Jason Wu's one-through-winter separates in polka-dot silk chiffon; Zac Posen's flared skater's skirt with a Lauren Bacall blouse; Cynthia Steffe's classic young American woman in soft gray sweatshirt, Harris tweed skirt and thigh-high waistcoats

TWO FACES OF EVE. One with an eyeliner and eyebrows, and the virginia mellips by Donna Karan

CAROLINA Herrera's opposite look has very prominent Hollywood smoky eyes and virgin nude lips.

# Amid winter and gloom, NY fashion gets smarter

By Larry Levitan
Contributor

THE VENUS AT ISHANT PIER vanished amidst at the close of the New York Fashion Week, perhaps because of the prolonged misery, the suicide of British designer Alexander McQueen and the lingering recession.

But despite the mournful mood, 188 designers, according to reports, still stitched their stuff for Fashion Week and offered a microcosm of American wear.

> Basics are the new black. For fashion, less is (once) more

Gazing the most press and orders were the clean, sleek and minimal clothes, versatile separates devoid of the 'this trend than tried to reverse itself last season. Instead what stood out as iconic pieces were the very basics of a working woman's wardrobe.

Yes, basics are the new black. The new uniform will be a new kind of layering, a long cardigan over a sleeveless sheath. A variation over an evening shirt. A running suit in gold lame. Anoraks. hoodies, peacoats in luxury fabrics like velour and brocade.

The trench coat has disappeared.

The details are the fabrics like brocade and Ramie tweed, loaded wool, double-faced cashmere, alpaca, chenille and all kinds of rosy luxurious in Americana colored lumberjack plaids and bouclé Indian patterns.

Colors such as rusty, goldenrod, merlot, quicksilver, rosewary and all shades of gray mixed out in predominant black millennium.

No fussy ruffles, draping or stylizing this time. What makes a woman stand out are excellent tailored pieces, quality fabrics, fine accessories.

Boot shoes and bags took a back seat. Hosiery were economical. The DAB Land the Gucci group have to rethink the priorities because women have matured overnight since the recession dictated how they spend. Trends and overpriced "it" bags and shoes are history. Even for was sustainable in detailing, organic and horsehair.

Athleisure will be the new addition. There were few gimmicks, flower red carpet gowns. In their place was cashmere, downright ready-to-wear that makes the future of LII fashion and its economy bright, functional and young again.

The sweatshirt cropped high is done in nubby knit, waxed leather or mohair. Shoulders are caressed if rounded. The boyfriend blazer is sing like Charlie Chaplin's jacket. Cocoon coats and egg-shaped jackets are the big news. Ale-cloche hats is hit.

The most talked about designers included Ghada Ralph Rucci, whose elegant architectural style became younger than springtime, echoing the rock-star street (unscripted music industry bigwigs are the new couture clients), and Alexander Wang, who upped his score by showing the most in-version outs.

The new skirts are flared, like a skater's, or long reaching dance to the ankle, like a nun's. Boho is banished.

Evening wear dress shining is updated, cropped ankle-high and worn with a silver metallesse jacket.

But enough of editorials and let's study the pictorial shown on this page. Pick the ones you find appropriate for your age. Repeat and lifestyle requirements. And the final question should be not, "Do I look good in this ? " but rather "Will I look young and sexy in this?"

It's all about feminine empowerment in dressing. The sexiest sex has morphed into the smartest sex.

SHOES AND BAGS are secondary this season. Heaven is in Chanel stainless-gray platforms; Zac Posen's version of last season's Alexander McQueen armadillo shoes; Mary Jacobs's playful fur pompom satchel; LAMB by Gwen Stefani's painted red zippered bowling bag; Diane von Furstenberg nails the dual with a oversized wood clutch bag.

INFORMAL AND PRINTED is the new red carpet gown. Peter Som's look-set cardigan-sweater with long skirt with studio, tapestry print, ankle-length, & lace skirt and banned blouse in contrasting print

GIANT wallpaper flowers on silk tulle evening gown by Carolina Herrera

LETHAL sartorial skills. Rachel Roy's black velvet frock accessed with galactic gold headwork, marvelously gold-hid leather opera gloves; Monique Lhuillier's red halter dress has suspended swallowtail additions; Ghada Ralph Rucci's black labor-intensive couture dress is not architecturally-rich detailed tulle and organza construction; and Carolina Herrera's silk tulle ombre graduated separates have flowery sleeves and rectangular boned collar.

THREE KINDS OF PANTS. Clockwise, from top: Zac Posen's lotus red harmonic; Carlos Miele's wool twill pegged leg mulit pants; and Vivienne Tam's high-rise jacket with two-tone pleated, tailored pants

FALL'S LATEST NECKLINES. Georges Chakra's shawl-up bared collar frames a peek-a-boo neckline; while Carolina Herrera's red wool boat-neck shift has interesting extended pleated sleeves.

FOUR beautiful women discuss their hair problems.

ANN Campos gets hair wisdom from Dr. Rina Mallari.

# Suffering from hair trauma?

By Stefanie Cabal

THE COMMON HAIR PROBLEMS OF FILIPINAS are balding and thinning hair, contrary to the popular belief that such hair problems occur only in men, according to Dr. Rina Mallari, head of the Hair Unit at St. Luke's Medical Center. She recently discussed hair and scalp problems in a media forum.

I whispered to my seatmate who had a scared, worried look, that my hair might come out in clumps if I scratched it. Nothing that drastic, but among such unsightly hair problems mentioned by Mallari were hair thinning, hair breakage, hair loss, dandruff, split ends, and dry, brittle hair.

I'm not alone in losing this hair dilemma. In fact, more women have hair problems than men eventually lead to hair loss.

BC BONACURE Color Fade Fill Range for color-treated hair

## Many Filipinas have thinning hair, or are balding

### Hair trauma

There is such a thing as "hair trauma," Mallari explained it is caused by everyday blow-drying and shampooing, sun-induced highlights and color, perming and using hair-pollutant products.

These factors weaken the hair fiber and affect hair structure which result in dry, damaged hair.

At the forum, four gorgeous women shared their hair dilemma.

Kat Velayo, avid sports enthusiast, is always exposed to the sun and she colors her hair a lot. She feels her hair is damaged and dry aside from ends. Stylist Rossana Chavez and Erin Campos like curling their long hair every day, they feel common hair styling and curling and hair products have damaged their hair. After her pregnancy, Jessa Manalastas-Espinosa has been worried her hair is thinning and turning dull.

### Hair repair

Holland, with Jenny Johnsons, technical manager of Topicals Marketing Corp., offered these women advice. To know if the hair is healthy, see one test by seeing and feeling. Healthy hair has natural shine and glow to it, and when you closely examine, there are no split ends. When you touch the hair, it feels soft. And when you pull the hair outside, it isn't brittle and doesn't easily detach itself from the roots.

There are preventive measures and ways

SEE PAGE C4

# How to have luscious lips every day

MY LIPS ARE HYPERTOTALLY DRY AND chapped so that I am usually limited to lip gloss or sheer lipstick formula. Matte or long-lasting lipsticks, even those labeled creamy, make my lips uncomfortably tight in minutes or as soon as the moisture evaporates, and leaves the pigment behind.

Usually I reapply gloss, which defeats the long-lasting purpose. Not so with Laura Mercier Satin Lip Color. Lips go from sanity to matte in seconds with this lipstick. A lightweight "elastic" seal that perfectly adheres to lips to set and lock in highly pigmented color and moisture without feathering. It feels like a stick of butter when applied to lips but it deposits a whole lot of pigment that lasts.

Even when it transforms to a matte finish, my lips are plumped up and highly moisturized. My color choice is Smoky Nude, a fresh nude which goes great with defined eyes and looks natural on very light skin. Other colors are Pink Cocoa, medium nude with pink undertones, and Maple Brown, medium neutral brown. Check out Bazaar's for the latest selection or their website to plan what you need to buy at www.bazaarstore.com.

Cosmetic brand managers know my avoidance for lipstick. Too many times through I have gotten friends with Holy Grail texture, consistency and formula with exquisite packaging but with herby price tags and the worse part—the wrong shade. A lot of those I have been able to save with neutral lip liners like MAC lipsticks or by mixing them to produce a customize pretty shade.

MAKEOVER 911

Kenny Sudan

For very dry lips, lip liners can be remove as lipsticks are better alternatives. Lipsticks that Sensational Color Cosmic colour-L Shimsilk Perfecting Lipstick in BE 313 in Dune—a gray beige shade. Best for lipsticks that have too much orange as the cool blush undertones neutralize the orange's levels, and does the illusion effect. 2. NARS Shilla de Jane—This sheer nude beige is only for the truly porcelain skinned others with olive, without color adjustment on a base have. A more down lipstick shades with too much pink or lavender tones like chocolate's Geranium, pearlized rose, or Sues' own Summer Holiday, a delicate pastel pink. 3. Bobbin 21 Liquid lipstick in 11—a perfect mix of bronze and pink which can be worn alone or on top of a true bright lipstick to make it versatile for most skin tones.

CLINIQUE Vitamin C Lip Smoothie

### Lip glosses with pen-like applicators

Tone the clad to allow color to stay into the brush applicator to deposit shine, pigment and that easy mess point to your lowers. These are best when they come in colors that closely match the natural lip tone. Suggested brunch and shades: 1. Stila Lipglaze which match the tone with the shade name for parting plus inner color. Try Guava, a sheer rosy brown, and Sugar Plum, a sheer nude plum. 2. Clinique Vitamin C Lip Smoothie is loaded with antioxidants to keep lips looking young, supple and damage-free which lasts even as the very sheer color fades. Try Instant Delight Candy cotton 3. Shiseido Perfecting Lipstick in BE 313 in Dune—a gray beige shade. Best for lipsticks that have too much orange as the cool blush undertones neutralize the orange's levels, and does the illusion effect. 2. NARS Shilla de Jane—This sheer nude beige is only for the truly porcelain skinned others with olive, without color adjustment on a base have. A more down lipstick shades with too much pink or lavender tones like chocolate's Geranium, pearlized rose, or Sues' own Summer Holiday, a delicate pastel pink. 3. Bobbin 21 Liquid lipstick in 11—a perfect mix of bronze and pink which can be worn alone or on top of a true bright lipstick to make it versatile for most skin tones.

Makeup Designery sis KEUL...Started out as a school that teaches basic to complicated makeup application. It ranges from 1-day to 3-month to prosthetic effects for movies. It was only logical for them to come out with their own makeup line. Now available only in their showroom at 302 Quadrant Bldg., 08 Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, tel. 0 726-0113. My favorite to date is their sheer lipstick line. SEEN's Eggplant Lipstick is an ultra-sheer wine color with bluish undertone. This is an ideal color when a light stain is desired. Given light coverage, a moisture-rich formula and is a dead ringer to Bobbi's Brite Tint in sheer lipstick form. Check out the website at http://sheer.multiply.com for the products with accurate shade description. I also recommend sheer lipsticks in Blackbird, mocha brown, and Hot Tea, peach with blush tone.

All lipsticks/gloss and glass are available at Bazaar's Department Store and Bazaar except for Shiseido and MAC.

# Say goodbye to bathroom brawls

IT JUSTS SIMPLY ENOUGH, an open bottle cap and mascara cream on the edge of the sink. Then your products conveniently seem to evaporate into thin air. Little do you know that your man has been rummaging through your pouch and grabbing a dab of moisturizer and hair gel.

Remarkably, men don't consider beauty products as toiletries, and yet every chance they get, they'll sneak a dash. You'll just see the evidence left on the sink. And if you say that your man isn't into beauty products, that's only because he hasn't been introduced to it.

Isabel Rivera, Berlitzspa Plus

Fortunately, there are a lot of products out there made to be shared. The more long intensive gazisms for your significant other about moodding off your precious facial cream.

To see just how effective these products are at resolving bathroom brawls, I sat down with several couples to see how the cease-fire is taking effect.

"My husband, Tim Tayag, and I both use Cetaphil Gentle Skin Cleanser and we both always moisturize after washing. We use Cetaphil Cream for Normal to Dry Skin. It's convenient because, since we share, there's not too many bottles lined up in our bathroom," —Anna Cruz Tayag, executive sales manager, Megaworld Corp.

More and more, couples are sharing skincare products

"My husband and I share several skincare and beauty products. Jesse and I love scents and we are glad he likes Calvin Klein Obsession Summer Fragrance and Jo Malone Lime Basil & Mandarin Body Crème. Both are refreshing and light. Perfect for the summer," —Jessica Soho, broadcast journalist, GMA-7

"We share Clarins products. Mine is the Clarins Eau Dynamisante Body Lotion and Eau Dynamisante Shower Gel. My husband's is the Clarins Men Shower Gel. We also share Clarins Hydra-Quench Cream Mask. We've been using Clarins products for years now. We've been using Clarins products for years now. We've been using Clarins products for years now

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# LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

## Say goodbye to bathroom brawls

From page C3

many years." —Kat A. Romero-Salas, WP of tipsoftheday.blogspot.com

"My shave: Jason Natural Wonder-free Powerstick toothpaste and Jhg Maria Lavender Soap. But he also uses anything I have from Jurlique & Dermalogica lying around. He often uses my moisturizer as a hair gel substitute." —Hiroki Weber

Features, clothing designer

Tips to a smaller, freer bathroom:

Close any cups, lids or containers that you open.

Return everything you take to the same spot.

Do not share personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes, deodorants and towels.

Find your perfect love match and fall in love this season with a whiff of the Body Shop's newest products...Love Bo... With a sensuous notes of jasmine, with indulgent notes of vanilla, sandalwood and musk creams, it's sure to get you high on love!

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## Suffering from hair trauma?

From page C3

to revitalize hair. Malibu and Schwarzkopf recommend Schwarzkopf Professional's BC Bonacure Hairtherapy line. It is a breakthrough range of products with deep-therapy treatment formulated to "rebuild" beauty from within."

Interestingly, Bonacure comes in nice packaging, with color-coded containers, and easy, readable labels that even your annoying brother who occasionally steals your shampoo can easily understand. "Moisture kick" moisturizes hair, detangles it and rebuilds elasticity. "Repair rescue," in white and red packaging, repairs damaged, weakened and overexposed hair. "Color save" is here for stressed hair. "Hair and scalp" treats scalp-related problems, like excessive oil, flaking, dandruff and hair thinning.

With the four gals, we tried the color-exclusive hair treatment of Bonacure to target specific hair dilemmas. Since I frequently have my hair colored, Bonacure Color Save Deep Color serum was applied to my hair. It's a leave-on serum that seals color pigments and improves overall appearance of hair, giving it shine.

I didn't even have to step minutes on the salon chair. The treatment was quick and—apply, comb through, blow-dry—and I had instant results. I have been using Bonacure Color Save shampoo (it is sulfate-free) and conditioner for three weeks now. No frizz, no flaky and no hair nightmares; just healthy-looking hair.

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# LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

# Local fashion caught in a web of plagiarism raps

After Rajo Laurel's 'cobweb' design landed on WWD, Arcy Gayatin posted a similar, even earlier design in her Facebook, triggering 'copycat' charges

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Rajo Laurel's "cobweb" dress (far left) as it appeared on the front page of WWD; Arcy Gayatin's version (near left) in a photo from her Facebook page

By Cherlie V. Moral

WOMENS WEAR Daily gave Rajo Laurel the "Ulysses to Web." Now some are claiming he didn't deserve that anointment.

The big news last week was Laurel's landing the cover of Women's Wear Daily, a venerable institution in the global fashion industry. This week, the designer is caught in a cobweb (pardon the pun) of intrigue and online slugfest. Colleagues across him of being a copycat.

Shortly after news broke of Laurel's feat—he debuted his work in the Big Apple in a trunk show last year—a collection of photos, including old newspaper clippings, surfaced on Arcy Gayatin's Facebook page. The Cebu designer titled the album "Say it your-self-cobweb-collection."

The Feb. 9 WWD cover showed a model standing sideways, bent slightly backward, in a body-con dress the paper described as a "cobweb of shredded silk jersey" it was from Laurel's Fall 2010 collection dubbed in his blog as "Cobweb."

Gayatin's Facebook album was subsequently flooded with comments, not only praising her for her work but also with words remarks like "This (sic) should be on the cover of WWD with your name on it!!" to which she replied, "I'm grateful (sic) a lot of you still remember (sic) my old fabrications."

Though the names are mentioned, the Facebook posting is rife with insinuations of plagiarism. Designer Vinnie Bariso commented on one of Gayatin's photos: "Shoot!!! I want one for myself (sic) Arcy it simple y'shirt or a vest. Then I can wear it (sic) (sic) front of the copy cats!!!" to which Gayatin replied, "ok yes we (sic) going to make you a shirt to wear in front of the copy (sic)."

On another, Bariso wrote, "I

(PCIA) 80

ATN Singla, Spanish Embassy's José Alvarez and Sergi Bastell

QIQ Bacunawa and Pia Cayetano

JEANETTE Tuason and Charina Isotta

KATE Quesea and Kia Santos

THE CUISINE and exquisite menu of Barcino, Sergi Bastell and Ari Singla (far right) with their young and excellent culinary team

# Barcino opens its biggest outlet with grand bash for two nights

CORP'S Honor's Johnny Columbia, Shangri-La Plaza president Andy Bautista, Edsa Shangri-La GM Steve Hiney

FRONT ROW: Baker's photo Rio, Basement Suite's Evalyn Wijangco, Escada's Marilyn Rio, Shangri-La Plaza's Lida Fojas and Relax's Lincoln Tee

LUCENTE's Emerson Tio, Shangri-La Plaza's Michelle Rivera and Karen Chikiamco, and Iron Tan

MARACAIBO Zobel and her mother, Papa Rosa Cardenas, with Josephine B. and her husband, past president Federico Barrozo

SOPHISTICATED FACES. Sonya Mercado and Bianca, Bella Torrente and Paula Zobel

WHAT STARTED OUT AS A POPULAR university project in Spain has now become an awesome full-blown wine and tapas bar in Greenbelt 3, Makati. Abaf gaspie Sergi Bastell and Ariel Singla, officially welcomed the birth of the fourth and biggest branch of Barcino Wine and Tapas Bar by hosting a two-night super fun celebration, dahling.

The soiree kicked off Thursday with a long banquet table, beautifully decorated with dark red roses and black candelabras. As this table soon seated the carefully chosen 60 guests. They toasted the night away to the finest Spanish wines and were now tapas prepared by Barcino's very own young, talented and vibrant culinary team.

The grand bash was held the following night, pintxopos, with over 500 guests who couldn't get enough of the free-flowing sangria Spanish tapas. Wines and the music of Tribe Manila and DJ Kristian Hernandez kept us partying till way past 2 a.m.

Aside from the Greenbelt 3 branch, Barcino also resides not on Julia Vargas Avenue, The Fort and Greenbelt 5. With over 1,000 imported wines, Barcino is the one place where you can enjoy and dine with the fine wines for money (hrs., dahlings, Barcino will have a new Spanish chef, brought straight from Barcelona, so less, to head to already established culinary team).

Who said, pelangan, that the Spanish invasion is over? Well, Barcino did not just conquer our town's food and wine industry but has also conquered Manila's heart and palate.

*Check out Barcino at G/F, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati; website: www.barcino.com.ph; tel. 8812200; e-mail: barcino@barcino.com.ph.*

## 7th Enrique Zobel Memorial Cup

The annual tradition that totally captures the interest of our town's well-heeled set, dahlings, the 7th Enrique Zobel Memorial Cup, was held at Manila Polo Club, which was decorated in white for chic ambiance, dahlings. The San Lorenzo was filled with club members and the distinguished guests who spent another exciting afternoon of polo and high tea.

The cup league with the low goal match between Porsche Whites and Porsche Blacks; it was a hot close fight till Porsche White won with a hairy one-point lead.

The must-have entertainment throughout was done by adorable Boo who, do forget, HPE president Juan Santos, Porsche Philippines handler Roberto Gonzalez-Gil and Audi Philippines head Benedicto Cojuangco, followed by the high goal match—this lead the Philippines' best against foreign professionals in one of the most exciting games of the season.

Since I was at the back, I didn't know what to watch—the thrilling game, or traffic-stopper Tessa F. Valdez moving all over to take photos of the surrounding

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH
Mauricio Arruejo
Photos by Alex Van Hagen using YSL Photo Solutions

public present, dahlings.

Anyway, with a strong defense and offense, Team Audi had no early lead. Team Porsche and Audi lined up excitedly to start on a race that one day we'll be able to boast gained to gain control, but the finals prevailed with a final score of 11-6.

Post-game the awesome grand parade of more cars from the sponsors. New models of Porsche and Audi lined up beautifully at the Banquet Lobby Valet, as some of us ordered apple-a-day for our day we will be able to boast of drew favorite cars of the big boys.

After the awarding, PSA Girl Inc. treated the chi-chi polo watchers to scrumptious cocktails and food entertainment.

Sponsored by San Miguel Corp., Prime Output, American Express and BDO.

## Shangri-La's partners

Leave it to Shangri-La Plaza to give a rip-roaring annual thanksgiving bash at the posh Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, dahlings, celebrating the awesome partnership of the Shang and its retail partners. It also served as a toast to RICO, whose awesome sales will go a farther and brighter New Year. Shangri-Chair and CEO, the charismatic lawyer Andy Bautista, and executive vice president and general manager, vivacious Lida Fojas, opened the fun happening with the invitees enjoying the endless flow of booze and superb food, dahlings.

Some satisfied stable-mail partners included French baker's lobako-kiss with wife, Estella's Marilyn Ilao, Green Tomato's R. Martinez, Expressions' Jen Manuzon, Dressmaker's Club Bautista, and Johnny Cabardo of Cebu's Home, among the 300 other guests, pelangan.

EDDA Joyce Garcia

PCD with Shang Mahal's F&B manager Christine Zarsadias, Sergio Maura, Orie Castillo and Benjo Ramos

AUDREY Carpio and Ana Kalaw

ELISSA Green and Tikay Aguilar

UP FILMS trainees director Ed Lejarso and actor Cinema's Ansar Dilgarr

## Australian fest

The Australian Embassy held its enjoyable 7th Australian Film Festival at Cinema Greenbelt and Cebu featuring its awesome critically acclaimed films from Down Under, dahlings. This happening opened with midnight on Saturday in Greenbelt 3 followed by the screening of "The Black Balloon." Visiting brilliant film director Elissa Down introduced us to the film, which follows the story of a teenager trying to fit in as his family moves to a new home while taking care of his autistic brother. "The Black Balloon" was awarded the prestigious Dendy Award for Best Feature Crystal bear for best feature length film in the Generation 14plus category and Australian film festivals awards for best direction, best supporting actress, best supporting actor, best film, best screenplay and best editing.

The 7th Australian Film Festival was presented by the Australian Embassy, Screen Australia and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in cooperation with the Ayala Malls Cinemas, Greenbelt and Ayala Center Cebu. Partners were Peninsula Manila, the Arts Council of Cebu, the University of the Philippines Film Institute, ETC, and Swinburne and Chef Boy Logroño.

A truly moving and inspirational film, pelangan, that I hope you didn't miss.

POLO SPA Rafael Llamas, Milagros Santos, MPC president Jean Santos, past president Victoria Ayllon and Elsa Zobel

POA Cebu executives: Celestino Arig, Rene Ray, Ed Bustio, Bobot Hawai, Hector Ramos, Gino Fiorentino and Angelika Fiorentino

AUSTRALIAN Ambassador Rod Smith, Pamela Bangcaya and Zuma Barclay

# Local fashion caught in a web of plagiarism raps

From page D1

shoulder just be surprised if this design finds it (an) way into MY Bridal Fair under someone else's name who may be was inspired by (mine)." So Laurel's blog, the designer noted that his fall collection was inspired by his love for insects. How he declined to be interviewed for this article. Laurel didn't return the Inquirer's calls.)

In his blog, Laurel addressed the issue two days after Gayanilo's photos came out. He wrote, "For those who are not familiar with the 'rulesoh' or, to be technical about it, 'shoulding' technique, this has been in existence for as long as existence of fashion have been: playing, experimenting and manipulating fabric. I remember this technique being used back in the 90s, when deconstruction was all the rage. "He illustrated his point by adding a string of photos of clothes "by other designers all over the world from different time periods."

### Eggsplain

Gayanilo said she posted the Facebook photos not to imply that Laurel had indeed copied her work from six years ago, but that she was egged on by friends who thought that that was the case. "I don't want to create an hostage Australia, napolis-arrogant women-now," she said in an interview. "Some women said I should write a letter to FIH (Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines), but I thought, Oh noooo!. I passed it because my friends encouraged me. I didn't imply anything. It was others who pointed that out. They were the ones who commented, not me." She and Laurel are members of FDCP.

Late last year, when Laurel presented a preview of his collection's dresses in an FD-CP show, Gayanilo, who sew her clothes but wasn't present at the show, said designer friends had called her about it. She said the thought nothing of it.

"I have no quarrel with Hugo. In fact, I really admire his craftsmanship. He's very good," she said. "He called to say that he was just flip (by Facebook post). I was hurt, too. He told me (that fabric technique) has been around for so long. Well, maybe. But (when) I did it six years ago, I did it on my own, I didn't copy anyone."

Gayanilo said she's not angry with Laurel's designs but with the fact that he didn't credit her. It happens to all of us, even in designers abroad."

He's a friend to both Gayanilo and Lanuza, she said.

"My real issue here is," he added, "is (for) brands in foreign magazine to appreciate what we have here all along. If said denise me that we have to look abroad to realize that we have the talent and products right here in our shores. I really do wish we start looking and appreciating (and patronizing) our 'own' first before foreigners do. It's the reason so many of us choose to just go abroad and find an audience there."

### 'Totally different'

"I look at (my) work and Hugo's and they're totally different designs," noted Albert Tolo, designer and creative director of the clothing brand Collezione C2. "It's just (not that they used) the same technique. But the sidewalk dress (shouldn't be an issue). It has been done so many times!"

Tolo is possibly the most copied designer in the Philippines: he who put the Philippine map on a shirt, so massively successful Chat Sattler clothing count's leaders have followed suit. "(For) have accidents when you're the first," he said. "You're the leader. If they copy you, it's (a) big. So you see, the former leaders are now followers. When I used the saying, 'I know I was going to be copied.' The only question was when."

A close friend of Laurel's, Tolo said the cyberspace dogfest reeked of assuming envy. "It's (with) mentality. I don't think Amy would've been able to put it (on) her own. And Hugo did (in) years ago, (Elizabeth's collection) wasn't picked up by (WWD)."

(Type the word "sidewalk" to Google and two of the top results have nothing to do with sidewalks but this issue.)

Another designer, Joey Samson, believes that assuming originality is a thorny issue in the top trade. "Nobody can really lay claim to originality because everything has been done before. When you adapt something, you put your impression on it so you can say this is (your)s." As for seeking that "exotic backdoor (look)," or shoulding "a long (time) ago," maybe Amy wasn't aware that someone else has done it before her," he added.

The "copycat" issue, Samson pointed out, has been around since the time of Charles James and Paul Poiret, two of the 20th century's eminent fashion designers. "Also around Salons of rapping. Videos accused Pliny ... so it's not new. For instance, when you see an Angelo Cirdenas ... just can't say he copied Givenchy. You can really tell that it's an Angelo. I guess it's all about respect."

The issue reminded Samson of a recent experience. His friend, designer Dennis Lunetta, had called to congratulate him when Samson's design landed the cover of a local glossy. "He said nasty-of-fastly, 'I did the same thing for a client three years ago. Ang ganda. I'm glad it still works.'" Lunetta, he said, made the remark without a hint of malice. "It's really about respect. That's what you do if you respect the person and his work. You don't use it as dedmanship."

As for other designers who jumped in on the online fray, Edu and Cary should keep to their business. "It's a small industry, we shouldn't be bickering."

It's no secret to tell here the feature will affect Laurel's reputation and his bid for the US market. But Edu said his friend should go about with his business, dito for Gayanilo.

"You'll just get angry and frustrated. Just produce a collection that no one can copy ... then again, how do you that? That's impossible."

# Hollywood Connection promo

Rustan's The Beauty Source introduces the Hollywood Connection which gives away 12 beauty essentials (B2 takes in a minimum purchase of P2,000 at The Beauty Source until March 15 that entitles one to a raffle coupon. Customers who use their Shoppers Card 3 are entitled to double raffle coupons and when used together with Citi Rustan's Card 3 they are entitled to triple raffle coupons. To you apply for a Citi Rustan's Card, get 5 raffle coupons upon approval of application.

## Covergirl lipstick

Covergirl's Red Valentine Collection includes Continuous Color Lipstick in Vintage Wine, Classic Mustard, Strawberry-whatever, Fruitwine Lipstick has shades of Hot Citrus, Raspberry Shine and Valentine Shine. There are also Wetsticks Fruit Spritzers in Watermelon and Raspberry, Rockstar Amplified, Everything Rocks, Red Rock, Merry Berry, Outback Double Lipstick in Arroyo Rose, 14 Carat Ruby and Candy Apple. Covergirl is distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation and available in department stores.

## Escada perfume

The Escada Marine Groove blends peony, eyebrown, jasmine, amber and musk. The Wetsticks Rockstar Watermelon Crisp, and available by April to department stores.

## Elizabeth Arden Pretty

Elizabeth Arden Pretty floral scent has Italian Mandarin Opus, Orange Blossom, Peach Redux, Petalia, Star Jasmine, Pink Iris, White Peony, Ruffly Blush, Jacaranda Petal and Creamy Amber. Distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation and available at Rustan's, SM department stores, Robinson's department stores, Rajo Rosa at SM Mall of Asia and Landmark department stores.

## Revlon's mascara

Revlon offers Double Twist Mascara, which features a 2-in-1 brush with bristles on both ends. It lifts lashes and curls them. The versatile mascara is available in Ultra Waterproof (Blackest Black, Black, Blackened Brown, and the new Revlon signature shade, Blackened Navy) and Waterproof (Blackest Black and Blackened Brown) formulas.

## Toxin-free nail polish

Revlon Nail Colour introduces its new toxin-free nail polish line. The formulation is packaged in a new, elegant black-and-gold label available in Revlon Nail Colour Editions and Revlon 9 ml bottles. The collection includes candy-inspired shades (Sheer and Peaches' Skin, striking reds (Fiesty Red Scarlet Red), browns (Touch of Beige, Mocha Ice) and hues of blue (Blue Magic, Blue Rain). Each bottle of Revlon nail enamel contains acrylic that makes it more resistant, durable and glossy. Revlon Nail Care also offers essential accessories (fingernail and toenail clippers, nail buffer and base/topcoat) and cuticle remover, cuticle oil).

## Body Shop's Love Etc. fragrance

The Body Shop's Love Etc... Eau de Parfum is designed to evoke a sense of bouquet. It supports a community of organic sugar cane farmers in Ecuador, being the first product to use their organic Community Trade molasses—the ingredient that keeps the scent's intensity. Also comes with body wash and lotion.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

Lira Ennie-S. Velarde

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## Lady Gaga sweeps UK Awards

LONDON—Flamboyant chanteuse Lady Gaga swept the UK's Brit Awards Tuesday, winning Best International Female Artist, Best International Breakthrough Act and Best International Album for "The Fame," at the British equivalent of the Grammys. AP

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"Why can't do anything as captivating in the morning," says the controversial actor-director when asked how he stays grounded.

# Mel Gibson 'humiliated'

LOS ANGELES—"YOU HAVE TO FORgive me," said controversial actor-director Mel Gibson at the start of this press con, in which he discussed his "public humiliation" stemming from a "driving under the influence" arrest in 2006. He also talked about surviving cigarette smoking withdrawal symptoms, which supposedly include murderous thoughts.

"I'm kind of [angry because I always give up smoking before I do [somewhere]," he said. "If I fail to find the correct word now and then, please forgive me. It has been seven days since I stopped smoking." Mel was on edge, all right, as'll blame that on nicotine withdrawal.

It has been four years since the DUI arrest, when he reportedly went into an anti-Semitic rant, but it still hounds him. It hasn't helped that, in two interviews with TV reporters to promote "Edge of Darkness," his return to acting after eight years, he made comments that landed him in the news again.

And there's the subhead bolder development to his personal life. Mel, 54, and his wife Robyn are divorcing after almost 30 years. His girlfriend, Oksana Grigorieva, 35, gave birth to a girl, the actor's eighth child, last November.

Martin Campbell ("Casino Royale") directs the film version of "Edge ...," which he earlier helmed as a BBC TV series. In the action-packed drama, Mel portrays an avenging cop, with Ray Winstone as an operative who may or may not be his ally.

In his other coming film, "The Beaver," Mel is reunited with "Maverick" co-star, Jodie Foster, who also directs. In the following interview excerpts, Mel also talks about his untitled film about the Vikings with Leonardo DiCaprio.

**You were quoted in a story [about how you lived through humiliation on a global scale for a while. What was that like?**

Ask any person who is [here] this. I fear. What do you think they'd say?

**Public humiliation?**

Yeah. Now multiply that on a global scale. I am one tough f [no rebuild] to print in a family newspaper] right now because you can't [so] see me anymore.

**What did you learn from that experience?**

What doesn't kill you and pix you under

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**GALLERIA**

1 [illegible] 2 AVATAR (Digital 3D)
3 [illegible] 4 [illegible]
5 VALENTINE'S DAY 6 valentine QUEEN LOVE FESTIVAL
7 EDGE OF DARKNESS 8 PAANO NA KAYA
9 AMATEUR 10 THE WOLFMAN

**MANILA** | **METRO EAST**

1 THE WOLFMAN 1 AMATEUR
2 INVICTUS 2 EDGE OF DARKNESS
3 VALENTINE'S DAY 3 [illegible]
4 EDGE OF DARKNESS 4 VALENTINE'S DAY
5 [illegible] 5 THE WOLFMAN
6 DEAR JOHN 6 BARAKO
7 LEGION 7 DEAR JOHN
8 PAANO NA KAYA

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1 EDGE OF DARKNESS 1 THE WOLFMAN
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3 THE WOLFMAN 3 LEGION
4 CASE 39 4 CIRQUE DU FREAK: VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT

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1 THE INCARNATION OF DR. PARNASSUS 1 VALENTINE'S DAY
2 [illegible] 2 FRANCHISE KAYA
3 THE WOLFMAN 3 BARAKO
4 VALENTINE'S DAY 4 CIRQUE DU FREAK: VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT
5 THE WOLFMAN
6 [illegible]

**IMUS** | **ANGELES**

1 THE REBOUND 1 [illegible]
2 VALENTINE'S DAY 2 CASE 39
3 [illegible] 3 VALENTINE'S DAY
4 THE WOLFMAN 4 THE WOLFMAN

**TACLOBAN** | **DUMAGUETE**

1 [illegible] 1 [illegible]
2 THE PAINTHOUSE 2 THE PAINTHOUSE
3 PREDATOR 3 LEGION

**BACOLOD** | **ILOILO**

1 [illegible] 1 [illegible]
2 VALENTINE'S DAY 2 CIRQUE DU FREAK: VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT
3 [illegible] 3 VALENTINE'S DAY
4 UNIVERSAL SOLDIERS: REGENERATION 4 THE WOLFMAN
5 PAANO NA KAYA 5 KALIMUNA KANE
6 LEGION 6 THE MESSENGER: THE SCARLETTER

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MOVIEWORLD

MEL Gibson with wife girlfriend, actress and recording artist Oksana Grigorieva

# Mel Gibson . . .


From page E1


makes you stronger. It's real simple.

**Did you rethink your set while on a break? Why did you decide to come back with this movie ("Edge")?**

I had an old acting teacher who said that one of the best things you can do to keep yourself fresh in your chosen sphere of artistic expertise is to go away from it for a while and do something else before you return to it. The pause always will inform the choices that you make.

Why this movie? Why not? It's compelling and intelligent.

**Your character and Ray Winstone's have a strange connection even though they are adversaries.**

It's like when dogs meet in a park and it's like, "Grrrrr." Then they check each other out [which ends in a] grudging respect for who the other is.

**Are you still planning to write and direct?**

Oh, absolutely. I just finished writing something with a couple of guys I worked with on "Apocalypto." We're going to shoot that in Mexico. I'm also working with Jonathan Hing, who produced this movie, Bill Monahan, Les Uchytels and I already had several meetings. We're going to make the ultimate Viking movie. I've never seen a Viking movie that does it for me, so I decided to make a Viking movie that will do it for me (laughter), that will make the living s**t out of you.

**What's the movie's title?**

I don't know yet. Why don't we call it "Beowulf" or something?

**You have a little girl now and you had one 30 years ago. How different is an experience is that now that you are in your 50s?**

There's no gift like a gift of young life. There are no words to describe that. I feel I'm older and I look at it in a profoundly different way, you through years and wisdom. The beauty of having done it when I was young and now when I'm old, is that I can look back and still experience all of that.

**How hands-on are you?**

I bet some be extremely hands-on. That's part of the hatching experience.

**Can you talk about "The Beaver" which is directed by Jodie Foster?**

I love Jodie. She's been a friend for years. She's a very decisive, intelligent actress and director. She got a script that everybody said, "Wow, somebody should make this film" but nobody would. Well, she did, and she asked me to do it. She didn't go the obvious way with it, which is good. She had a vision and she stuck with it. She took me along for that ride and I helped her as best as I could, like a good soldier. I hope we made a good film. It felt good.

**What's it about?**

It's about a guy who's clinically depressed. He can't even kill himself. He ends up with a catty hand puppet of a beaver and he recover [himself] through this puppet. It's pretty interesting.

**How do you stay grounded?**

Simple things. You can't do anything else except live in the moment. That's the very best you. Don't fear the future, [cover it in the hands of providence] and don't regret the past one bit.

E-mail the columnist at [illegible]

GARFIELD — By Jim Davis

A. LUPIN — By JOSE ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY — By Pol Jurado

DICK TRACY

LOVE HANDLES — By ELIZABETH CHONGUE

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

# LIVING Stars

Editor Bernie G. Yalardo
E-mail: www.bernie@inquirer.com.ph

## CHARIZ SOLOMON

I'VE always wanted a pet pig, so I named my year-old Princess Shih Tzu Piggy. She's a girl! Every day BC Mr. bathes her. Every day. She's very playful and seldom barks. She sleeps in my room, in her own cute bed.

Reynard Ivan Reyes Jr.

## A break from full-time motherhood

MAGGIE STELLENBERG, 32, can't imagine letting her daughter, Ramona, 3, hang out unsupervised with an alcoholic vagabond musician. But it's what her character Josie does, with unexpected consequences, in Pen Densham's new drama "Crazy Heart" for which she recently earned a Best Supporting Actress Oscar nomination.

"Being a mother forces you to be so responsible. I'm very protective, and I try to keep [Ramona] out of this Hollywood stuff. But I make mistakes. I have that tug of wanting things that feel good to me and trying to figure out in what ways I have to sacrifice. I haven't been perfect in that. When I got this ['Crazy Heart'] script, I was in this state of wanting something for me, selfishly after having sacrificed a lot of things. I was really hungry... I felt like 32 special two years ready to stand on my daughter—which was amazing; it changed everything in my life. But then I got this surge of really strong desire to do something for me. I couldn't find a match. When the movie came, the size of it didn't make any difference to me. I knew I had to do it."

## Reality TV star writes books for kids

LOS ANGELES—American actress Tori Spelling has a reality TV show, a children's clothing line and two best-selling upfront books to her name, and now she is branching out into a new area: children's literature.

Simon & Schuster said its Aladdin imprint is to publish Spelling's first children's book called "Presenting... Tallulah" in September this year.

Spelling, whose acting credits include TV show "Beverly Hills 90210," has already written an autobiography "STOP, Talking" and follow-up book "Mommywood" about being a Hollywood mother of young children. Her third adult book, tentatively titled "Uncharted Territory: TORI," is due to go on sale in June.

TORI Spelling

Aladdin said "Presenting ... Tallulah," illustrated by Marissa Bentley Newton, tells the story of a young girl who just wants to be herself.

"I love reading to my kids.

That sort my passion for storytelling inspired me to write a children's book," said Spelling, 36.

Spelling, daughter of the late TV producer Aaron Spelling) and her second husband Dean McDermott, who have two children, are filming the fourth season of their reality TV series, "Tori & Dean: Home Sweet Hollywood."

Reuters

## RED CARPET

## 2010 Brit Awards, London, Feb. 16

GEMI Halliwell

KYLIE Minogue

LEONA Lewis

LILY Allen

## AI AI DE LAS ALAS

BOOKS

I BOUGHT A COPY OF [award-winning] [epigraphist] Ricky Lee's "Trese Kay Si" when I received his book launch last year. I got to work with Ricky when he was creative consultant for one of my first big scripts, "Si si Who Unos Nakong." I'm curious about the first novel because it's about different kinds of love stories. I like reading about relationships and romance. Interesting.

Alyssa Sison Delgado

## COCO MARTIN

THE AWARD WINNING actor ("Manalaya," "Konsensya") leads through "Tinoman/Talaruan" trilogy" (ZP Press), written by his late friend and mentor, Jolloren Wilanco. The book contains essays on Coco, Jaclyn Jose, the late Nino Ma, Bernardo Pre Jr. and Sunn Rosas. Coco says Wilanco was "my closest friend." The book is available at UP Press outlets, National Bookstore, Powerbooks, Solidaridad.

## Overheard

## If you can eat it...

... you can wash up with it, says Isabel Oli, endorser of a skin care line whose basic ingredient is malunggay, the once lowly vegetable now RM as moringa to beauty products worldwide. Isabel is known to friends as a health nut, who insists on an all-salad day every week. Of Moringa-O, she says: "I know the products are made of healthy stuff because I take malunggay as food and as a vitamin supplement."

HAIRLOSS S.O.S

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## Real-life activists in film about '70s

By Marinel R. Cruz

DIRECTOR JOEL LAMANGAN tapped real-life activists for "Signos," a film loosely on true accounts of students who fought the Marcos dictatorship in the 1970s.

Big-name actresses Iwa Moto, Dawn Padilla and Elisa Alix-in lead the cast of the indie production, one of the finalists in the "Directors' Showcase" category of the 6th Philippine Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival.

"This project doesn't seem like an indie film at all," said production manager Dennis Evangelista, who also worked with Lamangan in "Dukot" and "Segunda Familia." "We have about a hundred extras per shooting day and have a lot of big scenes to shoot."

Last week, Lamangan shot two "rally" scenes—one with Cabaret at the Quiapo Park in Manila, and Dawn, Padilla, Iona, Marvin Agustin, Lovi Poe and Joy Aquitania on Roxillas Street.

### Costly production

The scenes shot on the first shooting day held in three different locations in Quezon City were said to have cost P250,000.

The five Cinemalaya finalists are given only a semi-production grant of P500,000, plus P150,000 as post-production grant.

"Signos" is based on stories documented by an American reporter (played by Xalanzi) who covered student activists in Manila in the 70s. The film features four other characters—Eddie (Allen Dizon), Oliver (Theo Toss III), Gio (Dudi-ao) and Aries (Mulat)—who were former student activists. Sixty years later, they reunite and discover that their beliefs have changed.

Evangelista said that with the actors' busy schedules, arranging for dates to co-stars for shooting was also very difficult. "Luckily, they are all very cooperative," he pointed out.

### Dream project

On the set of "Signos," Lamangan is visibly in his element. Evangelista said, "He is happy to be working on his dream project. He is actually the first director from among the five finalists to have started shooting last week," she added. "After the festival, he plans to have a series of special screenings for 'Signos' all over the country."

Lamangan will be competing with Gil Portes ("Two Funerals"), Jonelle Abanejos ("Pink Nakuha ko"), Mark Meily ("Yanig, Pitong Bangungot") and Mario O'Hara ("Ang Pagbibiro ni Anabel Rentillo"). The nine-day Cinemalaya film fest begins on July 9.

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## *Fil-Am talents dance up a storm*

VIEWFINDER

*Nestor U. Torre*

TORRES AND MEADOWS who like keeping tabs on Pinoys' achievements in global show biz, will be heartened to know that the two top winners of "America's Best Dance Crew" are dominated by Fil-Am dancers.

The finale of the dance idol's second season was taken on ratings last Feb. 5, and the two groups, SuperCrew and So-BadCrew, both came up with the worthy performances.

After all was said and done, SuperCrew won the top prize, which included $100,000 in cash, but SoBadCrew was also a winner in our book, especially because it featured two female dancers who more than measured up to their male counterparts here-efforts.

Impressively, more than 29 million votes were cast by viewers to determine the winning dance crew, proving that the dance idol is now up there with "American Idol" in terms of viewer-drawing ability.

The fact that Fil-Ams dominated the competition is more than just a bright gleam in our collective eye, it's proof positive that, when it comes to dancing, Pinoys are among the best.

Other TV dance idols like "So You Think You Can Dance" also indicate this, because they regularly feature Fil-Ams among their finalists. But, "America's Best Dance Crew" has a bigger impact, because it's a group competition, so the collective standard of talent, creativity and discipline is higher.

What was most impressive about the dance idol's finale was the fact that the winning groups were strong, not just in terms of dancing and acrobatic ability, but also in creativity.

Much too often, we see Pinoys who are great at mimicking the performances of other artists, usually from abroad. But the Fil-Ams in the recently concluded dance competition didn't just copy what others do, they were also outstanding when it came to original concepts and artistry.

That goes a long way in debunking some people's belief that Pinoys are forever "gaya-gaya, *pare-mayo*" specialists, performers who are bigger and

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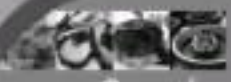

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# Stardom or bust for these vote seekers

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IN RAPOSO TERRITORY, THE most crucial question is not whether you're for Noynoy Gibo, Dick, Amby or Manny.

The bigger issue is whether you're voting for Sarah Lahbati, Dina Bonnevie, Boots Anchez, Enzo Pineda or Jiromar Mina—finalists on the GMA-7 reality-talent search, "Starstruck 5."

### 'Homecoming' sortie

Days before finals night at the Araneta Coliseum on Feb. 21, the network treated the finalists to a traditional "homecoming" sortie.

Bacolod, who penned the theme song last year, visited his alma mater, Mabini Elementary Christian School in Mabini and Bilibid in Intramuros. He also went on a homecoming to his hometown, Bago, and headed to Pangasinan.

Boots's parents opened a fast-food account, to help him "connect with friends and campaign for votes." He's a first runner-up. Boots insists, "It's anyone's ball game, and I have to step up."

Last Sunday, Steven garnered 548,691 votes, beating Boots's 333,821 and Sarah's 300,992. A former marketing, Steven, a Cebuano student from Sacramento, California, was caught off guard by the scores, although he said, "my family helped and I heard my fans also counted loads."

He set his homecoming day in Davao, his home province. "I'll go to Abreeza Ride Hood, where I had my on-the-job training. I'll also visit a Del Suroy, where I auditioned for the show."

Like Boots and Steven, Enzo is tapping the Internet. "We have the same campaign tools—texting, Facebook and Friendster. We're all in this together."

Dina, bringing up the rear, did not travel all the way to Europe for her homecoming. She held a motorcade in Dasmariñas, Cavite, which culminated at the International Grandview Academy where she studied for a year and a half before migrating to Geneva.

"I want to prove to the fans that I deserve the P10M they'd spend for each text vote," she said.

It's a close fight between the last two—nineteen-standing Sarah has 345,397 votes; Dina 335,413.

## Fil-Am talents

From page 11

...more popular ones, but hear it: its re-conceptions that's original and comes from their inner core.

We trust that other Pinoy performers will take their cue from this and identify to come up with their own concepts and styles, instead of mainly, lazily savoring what others have done.

To this end, we hope that both Superstow and Soloal Cares will be sealed to perform in the Philippines, to motivate dancers here to be creatively creative and originally expressive.

The show we do it in ways, because talent like this "Showtime" have made group dancing seem popular in those parts. So, the many new dance groups that have been formed this past year need to raise their standards and come into their own as artists. Most of them still try to get by with derivative steps and combinations of others, which are initially impressive but ultimately unfulfilling.

The 10 Acts in SuperStow and SoloalCares show that this wouldn't always be the case.


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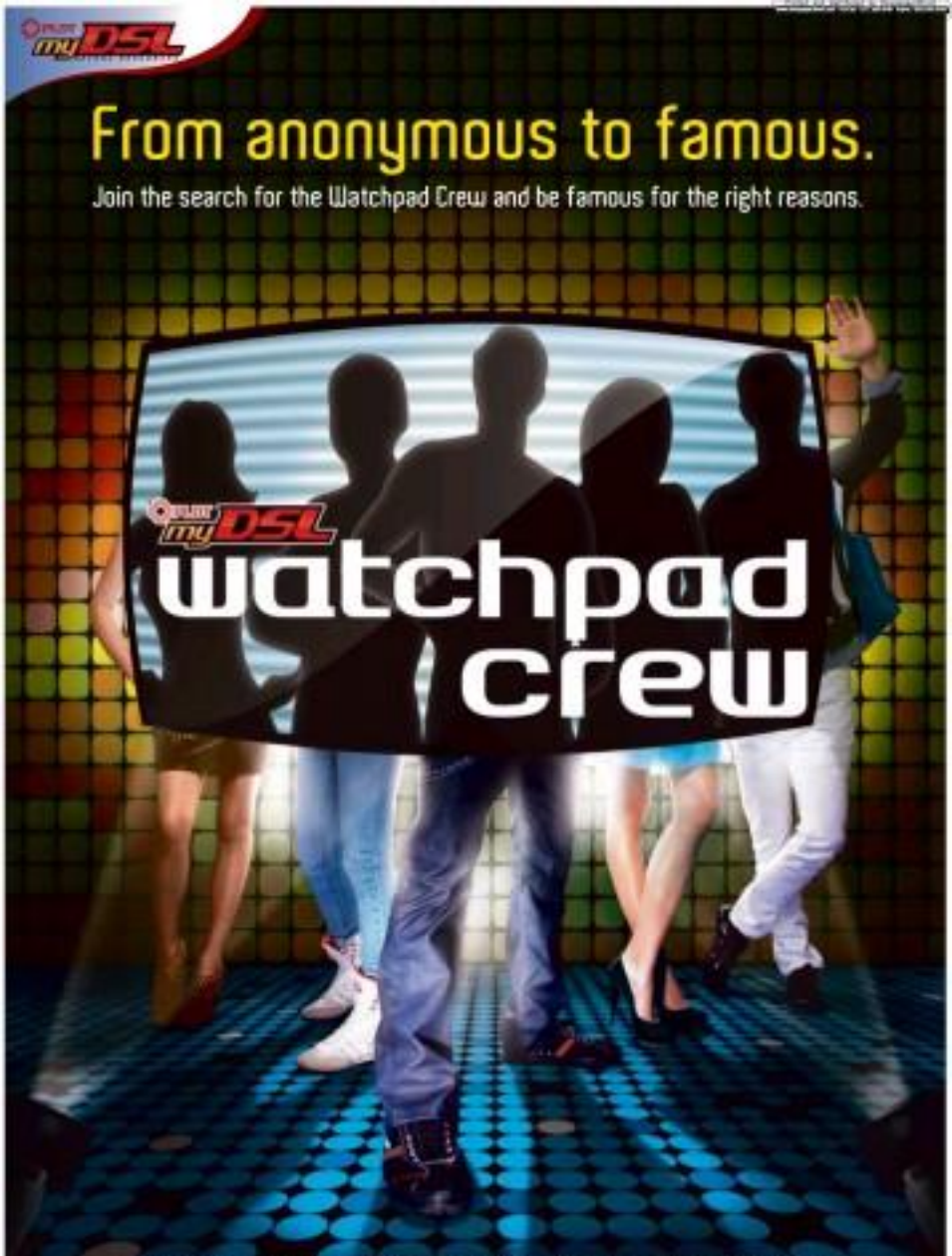


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Deadline for entries is on April 15. Announcement of the 10 Finalists and start of online voting will be on April 26.
Launch of the new Watchpad Crew will be on May 8, 2010.

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